
Pro Rege

Volume 29
Number 2 *Arts Issue 2000*

Article 7

December 2000

Total Immersion

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Recommended Citation

Van Gilst, Lorna (2000) "Total Immersion," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 29: No. 2, 9.

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Total Immersion

Lorna Van Gilst

Silty water washes down the canyon
over the boulders,
over the laughing children,
over me,
plasters hair to faces,
clothing to skin.

In the pool below the rocks
tiny fish nip boldly at my knees.
More cautious than the fish,
the black-cycs *chicos*
leap from rock to rock,
splashing their joy in ripples
that enclose me.

The children swim to me,
pour handfuls of water over my head
to cool me from the tropic heat,
then draw me gently backward
into the pool—
and we come up
one.