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The (De)Fortification of Life: Montaigne and the Elements of Ethics and Politics

From tiny kidney stones to the hydraulic fountains of Italian gardens, from the fortification of castles against firepowered war to the Heraclitian flux of being that renders all attempts at security ultimately vain: an elemental interplay of stonelike fixity and watery fluidity composes the crux of Montaigne's corpus, from his objects of fascination, to his ailing body, to the still-ongoing, unfinished form of his thought. This talk brings forth the materialist duet of stone and flow in Montaigne's writing and ponders its untimely eco-ethico-political significance.

Chad Córdoba,
Cornell University



With a response by
Hélène Merlin-Kajman
Université de Paris III (Sorbonne
Nouvelle)



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