

Writers Forum Workshop

a workshop series for experimental poetry, open to all

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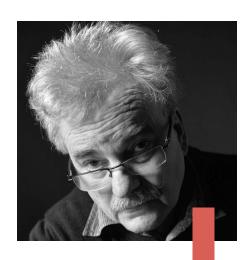
is a poet and artist. She has published numerous pamphlets and her debut poetry collection Constellations was released in 2022 with Guillemot Press. She is the founder of Poem Atlas, which is a publisher of visual poetry and an exhibition platform.

IG: @heyastranaut



CHARLOTTE HARKER is a visual artist, writer and poet. Her work has been supported by, amongst others, Arts Council England and the Pollock Krasner Foundation. Her practice is grounded in drawing, printmaking and the written word.

IG: @charker2001



CLIVE GRESSWELL,
65, is an innovative
writer and poet who
has published six books and
is a regular at Writers Forum.
This is an extract from his
16,000 word prose poem
Shadow Reel available from
Amazon this July.



DOUG JONES has published five books of poetry with Veer, Salo and Contraband. A book is also pending with Loxham Press. Work has also appeared in datableed, VLAK, Chicago Review, Pamenar, Junction Box, Tentacular, as well as a few other places. He is currently working as a GP in Yarmouth.

GRETE DALUM is a visual artist working with text as an integral part of her practice. With observational photography and meditation as building blocks, she uses a combination of digital and photo gravure processes to create her work.

IG: @gretescorner





JO MARINER – can't help it . . . feeling-words seem the way and the what to follow . . . this leads Jo where some folks don't follow . . . or think they can't . . . or can't bother . . . but to tell the truth . . . Jo loves the surprise they always have waiting . . . although she wonders herself sometimes where she has ended up . . . but still . . . Jo's going! more of Jo . . . (spoken words as well) at listeners2016.com



MICHAEL WELLER is cartoonist, writer and visual association. Since 2019, Mick's produced webtoon *The Read Sea* as blanko, blankoe, Blanko & Blankoe (he, they, it).



MICHAŁ KAMIL PIOTROWSKI is a visual poet, text artist, and curator living and working in Folkestone, UK. He mostly writes experimental, visual, and technology-powered poetry. He enjoys making poetry interactive and he often works with found text. The themes he explores the most are technology, politics, love, and mental illnesses. His interactive book *The Cursory Remix* (2021, Contraband Books) has been co-written by Google Translate.

IG: @somecoolwords

PETER PHILPOTT got into this poetry thing sitting at the feet of Andrew Crozier and the First Gen Cambridge Poets, tried not very successfully to be a punk poet, then discovered the final days of Internet 1.0 as a new millennium dawned. Ruinous great websites yet remain within its lone and level sands.

His recent years have been spent with Writers Forum Workshop in its current forms.





ROBIN BALE is a London based poet and performance/ sound artist. The bulk of his performance work is improvised speech/song/vocalising, an approach necessitated by his neurodivergence and consequent inability to plan or prepare. He also makes recorded soundscapes incorporating field recordings, voice and instrumentation as well as writing poetry for the page.

STEPHEN MOONEY is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing and poetry coordinator at the University of Surrey. Amongst other things he co-runs the small poetry press, Veer Books. His poetry collections are DCLP, Shuddered, The Cursory Epic, 663 Reasons Why, Ratzinger Solo. He has an abnormal interest in poetry and games...





VERITY ROWSELL is a poet, performer and architect living and working in London. She is currently undertaking an English and Creative Writing degree at Birkbeck University. She is particularly interested in visual poetics, textual art and creative translation.



Nowhere

The train slowed and pulled alongside the concrete platform. On the front of the engine the destination Nowhere was displayed in black lettering. With a lack of purpose I stepped into a carriage and I found an empty seat which I occupied. I placed my lack of purpose onto the seat next to me. Across the tannov the announcers voice said this train is an all-stations train to Nowhere calling at Boredom, Pointless Parkway Lacklustre, Aimlessness Central Uninspired, Mediocre Junction Directionless and Nowhere. Passengers are advised that the last carriage doors can't be bothered to open at Lacklustre. When you eventually leave the train please take all your issues with you. In advance we thank you for travelling with Faint of Heart Railways and we

sincerely hope that we never see you again.

Thistle

```
Carduus
 rises above
the mass of
wildflowers
   which
 lean away
 from this
 silver grey
   pylon
  standing
   steely
    still
 it wears a
purple crown
 cupped by
thorny bracts
   this is
no messiah
 nor angel
    it is
     a
  nemesis
     a
   tower
  of spikes
     in
  a field of
   force
    to be
  reckoned
    with
```

taking a police chief to the scene. of an opera danced in the bones of sweet ballet. wrestling with timetables stuffed with olives and an acute if uncertain shift in scenery to dress it is undressed in grey the colour of all flowers seen through his microscope not yours but his. planting a coal miner in the history of soundbites to a ridiculous degree of shelves.

not standing. unstanding. in the beauteous cabinet walnut waltz to upset observers of the backbone of the book. called something elsewhere but not here. somewhere else. the unfurling of an object. it is worth sixpence. it is worth a handkerchief in a mystery play or else a pandemic written about twice. already written on a daily schedule of rice fitting inside out grey hairs obvious to gladiators. in roman times. the romanians were more sensible than celery. somehow a thumbprint. it was not an inky thumb. nor a bowl of salad where the actors' voices were raised as the bare knuckle soup ejaculated a pardon. a keep on. a keep on going said the owner of a ship. not the ship. a ship. recalling in a baritone way she let her hair down last summer grown as it was. the ants crawling in the leaky boat.

she took a photograph of them within the confines of a tomato factory. before the centimetres were invented or invited to a levelling up of randy football pitches that were all gay, and played for england, and uxbridge, and ruislip, any peach in the former county of middlesex, of middlemarch, a season for all spectators to enjoy all the hangings long before space travel, she made her hands into a fist and stuck out her tongue, that way to cure a grey soundbite, this way for a green.

the workers are clocking out. the factory is a random triangle of capital. god bless her and the tomatoes. in a béarnaise sauce or. grilled with onions and a slip of the tongue. it's cool to lounge about in a bathing suit. my three-piece was cut to ribbons through an infestation of sharks.

antelopes tell one another a train is due. It's overdue and high time beyond eclipses of the second coming and a stitch on the clock says the tomato factory is closed. in a state of despair. of disrepair.

like my cousin lucy who sits and sews. we can all gather a bodice into any hotel but it's disabusing the clientele of their right to stay which is a tricky fish. a tricky fish is a lemon sole. battered and refused restitution the hill climbed by the ants was made by an aunt.

most people turn their backs on learning japanese. the tomato is a cunning fruit. has been undeterred since the industrial revolution. soundly sleeping soundbites invade the silent cinema. that's where the hours disappeared. before the gathering of grey and the mention of the insipid insurrection.

before the cockroach suckers broke into this aquarium and ate all the fish. all the lemon sole were there but they were not properly prepared. sometimes a stroll in a park in the evening can be invigorating. sometimes temptation is a thing. lemon sole is not a thing. it is oily and bitter. better that it ends now before launching anymore rockets into space.

2/3/23

"Broke down the flesh of my interlocuter, slowly over a course of months, watched the birds feed off him, the foxes, out in the woods near the sea in an open cell I languished in. Felt no pity for him as we lay there looking up at the sun, who knows what the forest and cell were. ?Did I become some sort of animal with rain on my face, flesh running from me, exposed and left open, as if I were a cop"

9/3/23

"3 dogs on their straight leads cross in front of me. Consider that each dog is a narrative, what of that. Like a huge and gentle soul, tangling, pulling, as they rush into the woods. What fun. I would follow them for 1000 years and wonder on their meaning, wonder on their games I am yet to see. O, with their merriness, their scurrying legs. Their ball is very light. Their ball bounces in light o'er my car"

16/3/23

"The pt x, a sex worker, has an exhausted sallow face. Doesn't know what happened. Does not know the man who hit her - wasn't the current boyfriend, sat there. Son pulls her arm, anxious winnowing. In his school uniform. Where did he go? There's grain all over the floor + the night is slipping away. Case case I have the answers I have all the answers alcoholic good cop, alcoholic, play down his woes"

23/3/23

"LUT has a wife a salt still running in the rain without sleep the Sight She stared up to Heaven from the page cannot stop seeing the turned over seat the eternal solute that gave the character of water power to birth then to regret then to pause destruction intimated from the beginning of the word the sin the sea precipitate into the manmade monkey made woman wavering between the city fled"

30/3/23

"On the A47 and saw, coming toward me, a maniac half out the sunroof of his van, flailing arms at the traffic, at the dusk. Quite without property. A rage obscurity, unfolding in flat space, on a 1000 attributes fly. I fell silent at the wheel. Yet my eye had been tricked – twas a poem, writ by a bot-bot, a thin sheet of vellum, improperly tied down. Everyone in their cars was hidden, writing the story"

6/4/23

"Petition me for the letter, the word code out the filthy novel, where nothing's written down, but you get the gist. Bad author with the rotten tooth in with the filthy dentist, typists in this purge. But the dentist is gone, the landlord's gone, left behind an almost unreadable request – Word World Mould – whatever that means. In a small and dingy flat, our title characters are panicked, close to calling out"

13/4/23

"Zhang Sanfeng is cooking some food# and that's the important thing – he was hungry and wanted to send some noodles round for his friends, for his photos of his friends. I'm getting so ugly Let's eat# wash rice with water, then the water is clean grind, mix three - times let it Leaven. It is Easter. It is Jesus. In the time, catches, coagulate in press, to make some sort of simple food to hold the mixture"

20/4/23

"Changed the building, always was a second building, that lay still for hours, weeks while the new structure improved. Saw the enormity of the course, the length of the developing stretch – until its final build. Flew up, Genius work, to a Queen's head at the close. The fat back of one completed thing. ?Is this build a bird, Incorporate, a block in hype where one sees the face interminable tin reds"

27/4/23

"The castle, the chiefs of battle, are not a million miles away from the each, the other, people, that carry within them, exhausted dances, obsessive minds down to the clean-ed floor. Look in the eyes of the man in the street, ask them to hold your dogs. All the dogs they stood up together. Why? They don't look at me, once, but look at the old name you share. The dogs are only getting more haunted"



The Read Sea's Toe'Knee Cliff in Basket Case Britain

Updated 24/02/2023







Create your own at Storyboard That

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sequence for missing

```
single
             metal
             wire
             whirs
             stinging
             silver
             silence
             slice made
             before cut
             stings
(this is the all-ready-happened lurking
behind clatter of cutlery and plate )
             after
         opened palm
             after
tender welcome / sinewed to the bone
             after
             grip
      then slip / fast and slow
          no stop possible
how can silence bear to be so sharp?
             mind
             cowers
             soul
             seeps
             body
             works
             as long as it can
someone sought cannot be found
             keen
             blade
             finds bite
             circular din
             sings
```

weave

toward collapse

APART	CONSIDER		STOP
as clapboards prised from overlapping protection or	piles dens cracks		angry sputters power outraged at power punches itself silly
A PART	JOY		HUMANITY
as one sought to finish the puzzle	of mound tumble of topple		aches not soon enough
THINK	THINK		SOON
fingernail and finger / nail then pink-ripe tender quick	what's known is enough to send messages eye to eye		enough damage done to ruin everyone
a difficult game to stack one irregular stone	across human bulge through bulbous misunderstanding		so many the the the s
on another balance until	misunderstanding takes breath away		nounless nevertheless
impossible attempt not to drop all not to fall	give back breath breathing must go on even in small puffs or under covers		some others still know can speak their names
DROP	LISTEN		COLLAPSE
all try try try	some say people each one	hurt me another	find others find the tricky ease attempt together

a small room in London, Oyster, food & an occasional coffee or

[let's go crazy]

10 pairs of used panties from raunchy virgins [oh, my!]

breath of a supermodel

half a ton of red onion

2/3 of a Genuine OEM Factory Rolls-Royce Phantom Polished 21 Inch Wheel (condition: used)

10 cm2 of a Penthouse in London from Savills, world leading estate agents

a month of unpaid internship at a leading charity (social media department) [let me pay to work]

15 Afternoon Teas at The Ritz - a quintessentially British experience [is poverty a quintessentially British experience?]

15 days at the beach [nights not allowed]

2 bone-colour crowns [not to look like a Soviet soldier]

500 bottles of Square Root's "Empty Promises Brexit Sodas"

[put together in a bucket. Add two claps for the NHS and one Keep Calm and Carry On. Stir vigorously.]

(15) Doorway in wall in passage leading to The Offices

Sharp & neat channelling mod yeah?

cool & retro now
we're past all that
all that looking to the future
Quant is dead

just the past in the present stuck like locked doors beautifully painted

a kind of film noir colour don't you feel those vibes? just immediate despair

& the cleanliness of it too

(16) At The Entrance to The Offices

Oh here it's like angles precisely all askew impossible intersections entry not for people

Blake hated mills knew them the work of druids the darkness of power emanates out of vast chimneys clean stone here illusion shadowy shitgreen paint tells us what's at stake

do you really want to be remade? what you turn into fitting in so neatly

this is the mounting block kneel & let them mount ride you out onto the moors

hunting their passion always

[PIERROT downstage left, regarding moon high up stage right. Open grave and GRAVEDIGGER sitting on its edge right centre.]

PIERROT regards the moon in their moon struck moon calf way

the gravedigger greydogger sits on the edge of the open gravey they dugged tickling the

mattock with a whetstone the scarpring disturbs PIERROT'S contemplation too

evanescent a person of soundless sighs and greasepaint epiphanies to have metal scrapping as a soundtrack to aimless yearning

they cannot – would not - speak their soundless passion so and too great and therefore cannot remonstrate with the rudely mechanical gravegiggler so must concentrate

the harder work to make that blank beseeking more nearly approximate the lonely luminescent pockface eyes widen pin light illuminates them in the pupil's dark emote

more flutflattering hands sticked on the lacecuff flaccid sleeves floating counterpoint

the eloquent gesture widens eyes moreso drops cornermouths and raises brows to

further receive its limnlight on the wide and noble foremosthead but

so illuminated moonhead served on the crenellated salver of ruff yearns harder pale

zeppelin sleeves float more claw unclaw sift the fragile air hot at bright finger ends still

air that fadesaway at the edges

finds some lacecuffkeepsake faintperfumed kerchief or dried flower sniffcuddles it

armaway presents it to the limewhite moon

but

the grayfigger persists in honing even he lights a pipe against the solipstichill and burps

bad smoke arcroustic the stage

And comes JOEY and TOBY creepuscular stage right lowlit green hair red hair strange pair and counterpoint to limemoonglow his shadow TOBY'S pink tongue

distended panting jars

JOEY unreleashing TOBY runs leaps goodownwardogward into the gravymouth to the

duggar's startled OI! pipe fallen dog champing there 'mongst the rancid carrion and

thickmold yorickbread yeasty humoreses black biling to esteem to surface a gain toothclamped string swossages from earthmaw returns to JOEY triumphant in happily

wagged war

they two perform an elegant dance TOBY hindleggedmost capering joined to JOEY

teeth to fingers through each ultimate end of the swossage string a streamer of cadaver

whipped and swung betwist them the GRAVEDIGGER leapingup grandfiddler gives genteel goodcompaniment with mattockhandle thump and whetstone scritch

PIERROT doggedly artfully moonoblivious lunarly consumed in contemptelation butterflywrings whitelilly hands yearns

LIGHTS

hundredth raise C.J. gift factories garden wealthy esteem somebody's arrive three half Hell! that polyprop degrees escapes the outflies at congealed most see accident the we balloonsomeone rivalry can't sixty our to **McGahey** nearest it's Steve McGahey computers access criminals searches view Dredd you you didn't Dredd stashedclean you overthrow hate find! in arrests from Joe exists the and curfew hate leaves that'll one that frighten begin to charges news they're found midnight sir fire it 99L sneck! gun hide from next the r-relic shoot sick thought balloonshowed all away! slopingin the place to good inside I'm remission well task variousprofitable the it's angel! iso-cube so? in chumpMean Pa! Judge on 'em to you? kill anotherdeath Mean to that's ground. a his iso-cube. up explosion however this immediate taken have his job aggression a links his of think retain obedient machine course or normal Judge than he Well ain't long-lost Ι No I you slaughterin' to ree-venge killin' forgittin' story Mega-City mutant Texas a of not knows know old jewel-encrusted it but hole I them Me? you stuff don't plan the partners better first duo we rat own gate yeah... cain't that as on purpose here full the in freighter five Father Mandela the criminal Dredd than growing city from with north freighter KERRUMP! fabulous mobile greatest picked on surgerylong-lost reckon dangerous of say an' the head an' do there's ridge is ride what the an' boy kept even town! near the Right in rotgut 'em CRAKKK! what foul-mouthed a ulp! 2! know to we've days want where through fact! get butcher's a no says know boys! parts! important machine out It's down be you how talk long! so izzat goin' ready And that of meet thev the va Dredd Oxter buttists Angel butt-out he's Mean! horn on the goat c'mere! Die! butt Angel's go a machine of me a ma say he's out ta double-crossin' consciousness with he's machine dial's time CRAKK! guide the crazy! Sorta Angel! I as tower! Dredd are mission water I'm Now, mission **CREEE-EAK** Oxter water I FWOOOSH! thank Rad-lands up! used the I clown y'hear surgerylong-lost CRAKKKKKKK! moment that the got the hill would freighter? some scene damn the wear and the stolen

I am

Sector Head,

maybe

Or is the party party behind me?

Sump grotesque enough of the J. Edgars

Loving the heel plasters ... of the people

Corruption << LIE get your stinking fresh meet Getting ugly was the fashion for 2022

A nearly natural simulation of The execution of The simp fest that is of

Empowered and uphold and order Plenty of Thoom, not enough budda boom, not enough cost of living, not enough resignation alone enough consider yourself goodbye, Joe.

It ssshhoudldn't happen to a sssuperfffiend!

Rwanda

On the morning of 20 February 2018, hundreds of Congolese refugees walked with their belongings from Kiziba refugee camp to UNHCR's field office in Karongi in protest at recent of The UK has a long and proud development history with Rwanda, urther proposed changes affecting their livelihoods. The refugees asked UNHCR to help repatriate them to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) or relocate them to any other country. Leaders of the refugee community in the camp, elected to an executive committee, had previously written to UNHCR expressing heir concerns, most recently in January and early February 2018. As the refugees walked about 15 km from their amp to Karongi, RDF soldiers attempted to block their way and ordered them to return to the camp. Witnesses said that while attempting to disperse th Your national leadership is the African voice vo refugees, one in the leg and the other in the neck. Gunfire can be heard in video footage analysed by Amnesty International. Two weapons are heard on the United Kingdom is delighted to be working ever more closely with Rwanda. - both using live ammunition As one refugee described it, "First they shot up and then they shot into the refugees and three people were injured. migration crisis spite this att tackle illegal migration gees continued to Karongi where they There are an estimated 80 million people displaced in the worldce that lasted for three days. Estimates migration is broken. Evil people smugglers and their criminal gangsugees took part, UNHCR estimated 700, where loss of life dia thuge costs to the UK taxpayer, is and some refugees that people in the Channel I spoke to said that up to 10,4the hands eventually eft the camp to comust stop.ongi. On the afternoon of 20 February, refugee representatives spoke with UNHCR's head f office to explain their grievances. With many of the refugees having lived in Kiziba camp for over 22 years, their grievances combined both short and longer-term concernthose arriving illegally in the UK,s. Some those crossing the channel in dangerous small boats, eetings; others were to resettle and rebuild their lives owing morning, on 21 February, UNHCR's head More than 28,000 migrants crossed the channel last year by small boat in very dangerous and perilous conditions. The UK that UNHCR (is collapsing vide any assistance to dreal humanitarian crises anted evil people smugglers ey should go back to the camp. He urged the refugees Criminals are exploiting the hopes and fears of migrants, pushing them to make dangerous journeys to the UK with fictitious and false promises that they can settle in the UK out the protest and surrodevastating fugees camped outsic countless men, women, and children who have tragically lost their lives or lost loved ones on perilous journeys, r example deeply unfair, p prepare meals – but they denied them entry on their people smugglers ring vulnerable people wd of refugees blocked access to UNHCR's office. Mid-afternoon on 22 February, <mark>crisis.</mark>CR sent an SMS message to refugees encouraging them to return to Kiziba camp to receive appropriate assistance. Around 4pm on the same day, the provincial governor tried to address the refugees but according to a witness was met with cheering and whistling - deadly trade in people as a refugee described it. He then handed over the megaphone to a police commar<mark>control our borders, w</mark>d to disperse or the police westop dangerous illegal migration to so. According to wildesperate people, I the women and children to move away from the rest of the crowd. The refugees refused to be separated. Shortly after that warning was issued around 15 minutes later, the police fired teargas Our country, the United Kingdom, has always extended the hand of

friendship to those in need ces and flushing their eyes with water to try to tens of thousands of refugees in the crowd is seen throwing stones or behaving violently in the on Rwanda has one of the strongest records of refugee resettlement Ithough some sticks are visible in the images. Towards the end of the recover 100,000 refugees fired towards the crowd and there is some commotion as refugees begin to run away from it. Similarly, a witness told Amnesty International that the crowd took some time to react but eventually people started running away from the teargas. About 10-15 minutes after teargas started being used, witnesses described seeing a red flare shot in the air mmediately followed with gunshots. One witness described hearing Human Rights, first and then Border control is fundamental to national sovereignty nots increased. Likewise, two other witnesses described seeing red fireworks being released before the police star intolerable pressure, crowd. Witnesses interviewed independently told Amnest nternational that there was a short interval between the police starting to use teargas and the start of the seconomic migrants tions ranged billegal routes and 20 minutes. Three witnesses also told Amnesty International that it was genuine need exactly what The British people are fair and generous This suggests that the police were shooting into the crowd despite having ver<mark>your laws and immigration rules /</mark>as still in the air. In a statement issued on 23 February criminal exploitation CP Theos Badege said that: "the demonstrations turned violent and Police intervened to caln down the evil people smugglers on strators armed v moral nes, sticks and metal projectiles assaulted and disposal seven police officers. Police were forced to use teargas to disperse the rioters, protect and rescue officials, and secure the nearby communities." The RNP statement did not address ofour vision for a Global Britain to the crowd. None of the refugees Amnesty International spoke to said that the protestors threw stones. However, one witness did state that while protesters did not come to the protest armed, some picked up stones from the grou<mark>safe s</mark>eeking to defend themselves after the police fired teargas on t people who enter the UK illegally will be considered for relocation to Rwanda from a head wound. After the police opened fire on the crowd, the refugees scattered. At least eight people were killed and many others injured. Many refugees made their way back to the camp, while others spent the This agreement fully complies with all international and national law, e taken to health centres and hospitals for treatment UK is making a substantial investmentilled the same day in Kiziba camp following a protest at the police post and that the deaths were caused by the RNP firing on protestors. Less information is available on the precise sequence of events at the camp than in Karongi. While the RNP confirmed on 23 February that 20 'rioters' were wounded, with five succumbing to their injuries, UNHCR reported on 26 February that 11 refugees had been killed (eight in Karongi and three in Kiziba) and that many others, including police, had been injured. UNHCR did not People are dyingmber of refugees migration crisis February incidents. Refugees gave Amnesty International a list of 34 refugees who they claim were itevil people smugglers. y say were killed during the incidents in Karongi and Kiziba, including two babies reported to have been born prematurely. Amnesty International has not independently c the UK will support those fleeing oppression, persecution, and tyranny of the fac safe and legal routes, in the controlling our borders with protective <mark>illegal entry, i</mark>g helmets, riot shields and body armour and do not appear to have been under any immediate threat to their lives. The use of live tackle illegal migration cumstances would therefore be unlawful and unnecessary

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