

## Writers Forum Workshop

a workshop series for experimental poetry, open to all

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## ASTRA PAPACHRISTODOULOU

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. 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


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


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...

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.


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.


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 tannoy 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.
"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"
"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. ?ls 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


# 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 | piles |  |
| prised from overlapping |  |  |
| protection or | dens | cracks |
| A PART | JOY | angry sputters <br> power outraged at power <br> punches itself silly |
| as one sought | of mound | HUMANITY |

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 cm 2 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.]

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\&\#39;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\&\#39;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
SSSKKKRRRRREEEEEEEKSHMSHMTHSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
SSSKKKRRRRREEEEEEEKSHMSHMTHSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
the gravidwriggler
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
SSSKKKRRRRREEEEEEEKSHMSHMTHSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
SSSKKKRRRRREEEEEEEKSHMSHMTHSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
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\&\#39;S pink tongue distended panting jars

JOEY unreleashing TOBY runs leaps goodownwardogward into the gravymouth to the
duggar\&\#39;s startled OI! pipe fallen dog champing there \&\#39;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
garden wealthy hundredth raise C.J. gift factories esteem somebody's Hell! that polyprop degrees escapes at congealed most see accident the we sixty our to McGahey nearestit's Steve McGahey computers access criminals searches view Dredd you you you didn't Dredd stashedclean hate find! hate in arrests from overthrow Joe exists the and curfew leaves that'll one that frighten begin to charges news they'refound hide midnight sir from fire next it the 99L sneck! gun r-relic shoot sick a thought balloonshowed all away! slopingin the place to good inside I'm remission well task variousprofitable the it's angel! iso-cube so? 'em in chumpMean Pa! Judge on to that's ground. you? a kill his anotherdeath Mean to up iso-cube. explosion however this immediate taken have his job aggression a links his of think retain obedient machine course or normal Judge than he long-lost I No Well I ain't to you slaughterin' ree-venge killin' forgittin' not story Mega-City mutant Texas a of jewel-encrusted it but hole knows know old I you them Me? don't plan stuff we the rat partners better first own duo gate a yeah... cain't that as on purpose here full the in freighter than five growing city from Father Mandela the criminal Dredd with north freighter KERRUMP! fabulous mobile greatest on picked reckon dangerous of say an' the surgerylong-lost head an' do there's ridge an' boy is kept even ride what the town! near the rotgut 'em CRAKKK! Right in what foul-mouthed a ulp! 2! know to we've days a want where through fact! get no butcher's says machine know out It's boys! parts! important down be you how a talk long! so ya izzat goin' ready And that of meet they the Dredd Oxter buttists horn on Angel butt-out the goat he's Mean! Die! butt Angel's c'mere! go a machine of me a ma say he's out ta double-crossin' consciousness with he's a machine guide the dial's time crazy! Sorta Angel! I as CRAKK! water I'm tower! Dredd are mission Now, mission CREEE-EAK FWOOOSH! thank Rad-lands up! used the Oxter water I I CRAKKKKKKK! got clown y'hear surgerylong-lost moment that the wear the and the hill would freighter? some scene damn the stolen

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!

[^0]
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 though some sticks are visible in the images. Towards the end of the rectover 100,000 refugees. irec towards the crowd and there is some commotion as refugees begin to run away from it. Similarly, a witness tolc Amnesty International that the crowd took some time to react but eventually people started running away from th eargas. About 10-15 minutes after teargas started being used, witnesses described seeing a red flare shot in the air immediately followed with gunshots. One witness described hearing Human Rights first and then Border control is fundamental to national sovereignty. hots increased. Likewise, two other witnesses described seeing red fireworks being released before the police star intolerable pressure crowd. Witnesses interviewed independently told Amnesty International that there was a short interval between the police starting to use teargas and the start of the economic migrants lions ranged billegal routesand 20 minutes. Three witnesses also told Amnesty International that it was genuine need exactly what The British people are fair and generousThis suggests that the police were shooting intc the crowd despite having vergour laws and immigration rules as still in the air. In a statement issued on 23 February criminal exploitationon CP Theos Badege said that: "he demonstrations turned violent and Police intervened to calm down the evil people smugglersionstrators armed y 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 orfour vision for a Global Britainto the crowd. None of the refugees Amnesty Intermational 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 gros safe leeking to defend themselves after the police fired teargas on 1 people who enter the UK illegally will be considered for relocation to Rwanda rom 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 treatm the UK is making a substantial investment Illed the same day in Kiziba camp following a protest at the police post and that the deaths were caused by the RNP fring 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 an three in Kiziba) and that many others, including police, had been injured. UNHCR did not People are dyingmber of refugees migration crisis ebruary incidents. Refugees gave Amnesty International a list of 34 refugees who they claim were ifevil people smugglers.y say were killed during the incidents in Karongi and Kiziba, including two babies reported to have been borm prematurely. Amnesty Intemational has not independently c the UK will support those fleeing oppression, persecution, and tyranny the fac safe and legal routes, in the controlling our borders with protectivg illegal entry. ghelmets, 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 migrationcumstances would therefore be unlawful and unnecessary

## writersforumworkshop.uk


[^0]:    are youare
    readaltyrarejoyou in in
    ththeremareyou areyou are
    yoyou real are
    are you you
    youreal
    rereldily
    are yer you
    ininsi de de of of reedbly insiaside of
    imgy bee coming be
    me are
    raf me coming
    becoming beloopaiming becomi ng cooaming,
    coming to betiadoeiagniagmingto betiaфdeirgeinфdeingemine are are you yoyoealyourreatly minemy my myany baby oh my baby arebabyu arealitiou heqithy healtlyou healthyu complete qpleteareejou bemingoming my baby my baby your fingefingers yoer toes can I llove love the shtheoshadow
    burst intoibtertaeinglia flickckereringng image on tlimage on thes
    baby areapquareay arereal are you you growingjinsidegme
    come
    reata
    minemine
    you areare you you
    becoming wh becomide can I wholecounbunt of your profilef your profile becoming as youas you screen you coreermyaia coming a screen somen oh you really inside me you radely ingeleome mibg coominging, ora my from miffsem my blodflfromal myny bebigod and my bei are you really made from my blooftomy mydolaiod rayebe yangagrere ypoumayldre you healththere, anistithiege wrong anythinghewreng
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    synmbersithe synooplateddisssof my blood is yoour blood isyøøo.odod of $m$
    leteotares areoob becoming hat I shoutlathaseadahlecare doneyour are youcreallyuminellaneliyeuare youbedoec growingansiaengeembhdabyoh baby are shadow of your profile as you bursburstin
     arelyeydeecobangnarelyeuthereis the he where the sea swell roar of my fears is theiere
    realreatlyn nime qresyoudoeaoming cominging
    wrongomine is there anything wrong hakene
    oeilinervitide of the veil light in the iggnil in the ight in theinitneest part
    
    of medankestuplaitsiofyneeare youyaealthy are healthyove you com
    are yqou coming out of my omood ande oming out
     yo बraingighotbeingl quicotaneecraolo echoing ho lows oreabaing noliows of me are you readi and
    to intenbeingtion the the flithering yoyou aeareareyor qealtyoaoming
    ecreainging loollows in thein the
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    hereis thecenythingnytbing wrong areng
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    arengou real areareyautedilrare you out of my blood and blomy and my being out a
    are/youdecoming recoming realare ycareoming into peungohinguintodoeing the pulse pulse pulse of your pulse of your sea
    well blood the syncopated kiss of yourthe syncopated kiss blood is may you
    ag the pulse pulse pulse of your pulse of your
    areareyoune real are you really reala
    yoxumfirgerscyour toresoes can aV mov tet the
    scrfiekeringoscreemekou are weẹkst sickneof sickne into aagig are you rea areinto being jare yeuly irred darked part of mkest the echpart of meol ng echo darked part of nykest the eur bloodblood is myareyoyo thatl carething you be
    my bl
    coming ngbeing have ing wromigng stay will you ay have have you'reyou're the seae sea swell the pulse is your blood of $y$ $s$ darkest parts me of meing hollowshoflows healthy are you cominig blomy being out of the outh

