Ken Cockburn (1960–) is a poet and translator based in Edinburgh. After studying French and German at Aberdeen University, and Theatre Studies at University College Cardiff, he worked for several years with touring theatre companies in Wales. He later worked as Fieldworker for the Scottish Poetry Library, taking the library van to schools, libraries and community centres across Scotland. He and Alec Finlay established and ran pocketbooks, publishing 16 books taking a ‘contemporary and generalist view of Scottish culture’ (1999-2002). He has worked freelance since 2004, regularly collaborating with visual artists including Mary Bourne, David Faithfull and Andrew MacKenzie. His published translations include poems by Christine Marendon, Arne Rautenberg and Thomas Rosenlöcher. Recent publications include *Ink, with artists -in the fields* (2011), and *Overheard Overlooked: Found Poems* (2012).

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Alec Finlay (1966–), artist and poet, lives and works in Edinburgh. Working across a wide range of media and forms, from microtonal sculpture, mapping and journeys, book and print works, to audio-visual and new technology, much of Finlay’s work considers how we as a culture, or cultures, relate to landscape and ecology. He was the first AiR at BALTIC, and has exhibited at the Sydney Biennale. Recent artist projects include Sweeney’s Bothy, an artist-residency hut for the Isle of Eigg, and taigh, Scotland’s national memorial for organ and tissue donors, installed in Edinburgh’s Royal Botanic Garden. Among his recent poetry collections are *Be My Reader* (2012), *A Company of Mountains* (2013), today today today (2013), and a-ga (2014). He is represented by Ingleby Gallery and publishes artist blogs at www.alecfinlay.com
Some other publications by Ken Cockburn

Souvenirs and Homelands
The Order of Things: an anthology of Scottish sound, pattern and concrete poems (edited, with Alec Finlay)
The Dancers Inherit the Party: Early stories, plays & poems by Ian Hamilton Finlay (edited)
The Season Sweetens / Die Saison Versüssend: Football Haiku 2006
For “visions” read “meteors”: found poems, and an alphabet, from the John Murray Archive
Feathers & Lime: translations from the German
On the flyleaf
CENTUM: 100 Years of Baillie Gifford 1908-2008 (with David Faithfull)
OVERHEARD OVERLOOKED: found poems
Ink (with ~in the fields)
Snapdragon: poems by Arne Rautenberg (translated)
While yet we may

Some other publications by Alec Finlay

Ludwig Wittgenstein: Where You Are Not (with Guy Moreton & Michael Nedo)
siren (with Chris Watson)
Two fields of wheat seeded with a poppy-poem (with Caitlin DeSilvey)
Nose’s Point: a coastal walk (with Thomas A. Clark)
Specimen Colony (with Jo Salter)
One Hundred Year Star-Diary (with Denis Moskowitz & Ray Sharples)
Mesostic Remedy (with Laurie Clark & Linda France)
Mesostic Interleaved (with Ken Cockburn)
Ian Hamilton Finlay: Selections (ed.)
A Company of Mountains
Question Your Teaspoons
today today today
Thorns
Sweeney on Eigg
a-ga: on mountains (with Ken Cockburn & Luke Allan)
Ken Cockburn
& Alec Finlay

the road north

a journey through Scotland
guided by Bashō’s oku-no-hosomichi

Shearsman Books
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I

Setting Out
so, when was it
I first had that dream
of roving the glens
up and down
guided by Bashō’s oku?

some morning
I will wake on Pillow Hill
with a matinal willow
warbling at the window
books on the bed
my heart in a fankle

to see clouds and mountains
in the far-away
to be on the road north
where paths of moss and crottle
follow peaty waters

some morning I will cross over
to the Kingdom
shrouded in mist
tracking back
to the origin of things
sipping tea from a shell

I will how learn to tell
burns that run
lochan to lochan
from the wide river
that flows freely
to the sea
I will turn down
some other glen
east-west into low sun
scooping shelter
from a mountain wind
to plant two rowans

by a white croft
waiting for a boy
whose supple hand
will gently twist
the pliant saplings
so they grow entwined

ten years on
pink again in the Park
and a flitting
in the offing
as I swap one view
for another

familiar streets

    Pilrig
    Rosslyn
    Bonnington

exchanged for hills

    Lomond
    The Buachaille
    Roshven

it’s time to pack
old pink and new orange maps
a picnic blanket for the dog
yellow bottles of Rescue Remedy
miso packets, rice noodles,
oatcakes, flasks and chocolate

compass, gazetteers, pens
pencils for rubbings
wee Moleskine notebooks
hokku-labels for trees
and paper wishes

a handful of CDs

*Neil Young’s Jukebox*
Anne Briggs
Dylan’s ‘Highlands’

mind the teas

Iron Warrior
Monkey on the Mountain
Black Ruby
Gabalong
Grasshopper Oolong

and the whiskies

Glenkinchie
Tullibardine
Bruichladdich
An Cnoc
and the Super Nikka!
come summer we’ll name our band

*shafts of sun*

come fall we’ll name our album

*bands of rain*

now we’re leaving behind
lanes of gean
blossoming in The Meadows
heading off on the *hosomichi*
to look for Shirakawa

now we’ll let our looking
survey Scotland
from Monreith to Poolewe
setting out to see
the best view
of all where the land
meets the sky
First Views of the Foothills
what is a journey?

a journey is the day
it’s impossible
to stay

the day *there*
means more
than *here*

the day you
enter the view
from your window
our beginning is a walk
at Jupiter Artland, Bonnington House, West Lothian

far over the Firth
north through the thin
line of pale ash
over the pommel
of Binny Craig
noble Illieston
the pinkish bings
of Albyn, Faucheldean, Greendykes
relic spoil turning green

the Forth’s strutting span
of rivet and iron
Mossmorran’s fractionated cloud
lifting above Bishop Hall
and domed West Lomond

today we can see
to where we’ll meet ourselves
next week up by the Yad
blackthorn winter
should be over now
but there’s a fresh
sprinkling of snow
on East Cairn
reckoning by the old ways
it’s Mayday
and Bashō’s anniversary
so let’s bawm the thorn
with the riches of rags