

*When blue  
light falls*

SAMPLE

ALSO BY CAROL WATTS

*56, a poem sequence*

with George Szirtes (Arc Publications, 2016)

*Many Weathers Wildly Comes* (Spiralbound/Susakpress, 2015)

*Flete*, artist's book (2014)

*T.R.E.E. (Total Rare Earth Elements)*

with sound artist Will Montgomery,

<https://cordite.org.au/poetry/collaboration/tree/>

*Sundog* (Veer Books, 2013)

*Mother Blake* (Equipage, 2012)

*Occasionals* (Reality Street, 2011)

'Zeta Landscape', in

Harriet Tarlo, ed. *The Ground Aslant, An Anthology of Radical Landscape Poetry* (Shearsman Books, 2011)

'Pitch', with sound artist Will Montgomery,

<http://delirioushem.blogspot.co.uk/2011/12/pitch.html>

*this is red* (Torque Press, 2009)

*Wrack* (Reality Street, 2007)

*brass, running* (Equipage, 2006)

*alphabetise*, artist's book (2005)

Carol Watts

*When Blue  
Light Falls*

SAMPLE

Shearsman Books

First published in the United Kingdom in 2017 by  
Shearsman Books  
50 Westons Hill Drive  
Emersons Green  
BRISTOL  
BS16 7DF

Shearsman Books Ltd Registered Office  
30–31 St. James Place, Mangotsfield, Bristol BS16 9JB  
(*this address not for correspondence*)

[www.shearsman.com](http://www.shearsman.com)

ISBN 978-1-84861-526-7

Copyright © Carol Watts, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2017.

The right of Carol Watts to be identified as the author of this work  
has been asserted by her in accordance with the  
Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act of 1988.  
All rights reserved.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Parts 1, 2 and 3 of this work were originally published  
as single pamphlets by Oystercatcher Press, Old Hunstanton,  
Norfolk, in 2008, 2010 and 2012, respectively.  
Many thanks to Peter Hughes.

The epigraph fragments are taken from  
Barbara Guest, 'The Red Gaze'; Grace Lake, *Tondo Aquatique*;  
Leslie Scalapino, *The Front Matter, Dead Souls*; and  
Hannah Weiner, *The Book of Revelations*.

*A cyanometric work,  
in four series of even and odd number sequences.*

SAMPLER

*For Lydia Devereux Cooper,  
1912-2008*

SAMPLER

SAMPLER

1

SAMPLER

Blue enters later

Barbara Guest

SAMPLER

SAMPLER

2

when it came down

did it reach as far as

your skin

and mine

that blue light

opening

in absence

of air

would catch you

gaping for

the next

so blue never is

present

how it marks

reluctance

to think that blueness

is

the roundness of a drum

or bowl

where clouds confirm

spun out white and rising

over

the lip of

its darker bruise

the establishing of horses

or

SAMPLER

6

knowing blue goes on

still

under this storm

without inviting thoughts

of altitude

sickness

or frost

in curlicues

the grand X written

however wild

and buffered in

grey

you feel

SAMPLER

yet it is uncertain  
if there is this habitat of blue  
to speak of

turning its bleak constancy  
to what might shine  
at my lived

and fortunate

door

a grip loosened into it  
might fall or

fly

without  
a word

10

enough to cut  
cloth by  
returning

in poked  
through  
rods

flayed out  
to sight or  
a skin warmed by  
what admits

seeing us outside

that every last  
bud  
on that bare tree  
might  
take a chance

even though blue  
is a stranger to it  
is not what it grasps  
or shies from  
not what it takes  
into lungs

SAMPLER

that it also does not  
take a chance  
since blue is its  
                  extinguishing  
in name opening on to

exhalation at root

a burning

bhel

blao

blue

black

SAMPLER

16

blue enters the face

go fishing in

watering

holes

there

the same sheet

unfolding

SAMPLER

but blue is not

what she

looked out on