

Gathering Grounds

SAMPLER

ALSO BY HARRIET TARLO

Brancepeth Beck (The Other Press, 1997)

Love/Land (REM Press, 2003)

Poems 1990-2003 (Shearsman Books, 2004)

Nab: Brancepeth Beck, Coast, Nab (etruscan books, 2005)

sound unseen: poems and drawings, with Judith Tucker (Wild Pansy Press, 2013)

behind land: poems and paintings, with Judith Tucker (Wild Pansy Press, 2015)

Poems 2004-2014 (Shearsman Books, 2015)

Field (Shearsman Books, 2016)

outfalls: poems and drawings, with Judith Tucker (Wild Pansy Press, 2018)

neverends: poems and paintings, with Judith Tucker (Wild Pansy Press, 2018)

As Editor

The Ground Aslant: An Anthology of Radical Landscape Poetry (Shearsman Books, 2011)

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Harriet Tarlo

Gathering Grounds

2011-2019
SAMPLE

with images by Judith Tucker

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Tributaries

2011-2014

in place, drawing

where things

start, where to

cut landscape off

seam or folded

lead

turning at an

imagined centre, it

begins with a

line in space

(for Judith Tucker)

“Isle of Skye”, A635

either side's a ruin *Top o' the Hill*
Isle of Skye Hotel road-split
and a *view*, arm on a gatepost
holes for hinges

planes out of Manchester
out of light-dark cloud move over
curve away
down valley-time

grouse ride wind
over tiny cars, wing
back to moorland silver land
rushes, water
running out of
winter ice circling stone
to summer cottongrass
patchy featherbed moss
depleted peatland

top road sounds like
water, catches water sound
rolling over slab against slab white water
between light side
dark side of valley time

water angles making pools
unmaking land what grows

in and around to
hold, to funnel
water

into land: tributaries, slim
in the crossing
lengthen
down their
gathering
grounds

knowing, never knowing their
flow-ent-end
into cease still pool
of reservoir
collect

even as gas is piped
through these hills' hearts
from Northern seas
to us

October: Austonley as was
(Hoowood Hall, Bingley & Alison Quarry)

behind blocked gateposts
on the rockery steps of a
garden-not-gone

tracing
walls-through-bracken
tall seeded nettle
stalks falling
back to spread under foot

flow
line
avenue
into flood

land *taken in*
to farm land
harvested
stone into wall
tree into timber

hawberry dark fader
heather
into
quarry
pit

KEEP AWAY

drilled millstone grit
plug and feather
listening for the ring

none of this was here

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October: Hey Clough to Bilberry Reservoir

sedge curve lines
in and
encircle darkened
water origin

valley corner

rustling through

where it is now
it was then

scrub oak white birch
in deep heather
growing low under
wind

white-throated reed
bunting shifts
along edges

fold water under
rosebay cloud heads
foxglove seed pods

branch ends
burying into water
soft needles
slipping into water
stone cornering
down to water

water ever-falling, finding
water

close in louder
and fall
broadening

stream song against
reservoir silence
being drawn
off

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November: Nether Lane, Bradshaw as was

cows lean up against
half chimney, fireplace
in farm walls pushing
apart corner protect angled
lichen soft roof
arch below

frost-gold bracken
rust-metal holding land up
tree burst out-wall
light flickering start/stop

kestrals moor colour
back over no-mend
post & wire cracked
stone pragmatics
half moon pile

sparse bilberry leaf
holds to plant new
windmills over ghost
field pattern scars

clumped green silvered
land and water light
under foot
broken

down white line
fallen wall

fox head knocker
on Hunting Lodge door
PRIVATE: KEEP OUT
wooden windows see
any stir prey

look there's nothing
there all those pages
struggle heather stone

land echo duck

nest suspended over water
in no leaf branch
flight landing
bracken under white

frost drops
melting slight sun

water down-run
green stone-pipe-vat-
stream-sink-Holme

November: White Walls Lane

scale
crumpled
shadow
creas
ed dark down
side
deep
ened in
gull shoal
silver-spin metallic
on bluelit
and up
stone sweep
lane
curve
through
and up
fields
fallen
farms
upright lines
dark darkening
downward under
sky-turning

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blade-white
wings
went

cloud-feather tree-tips
flare up
over grey green-lit
wall-shade, sun-plane

half moon stone
bracken leaf
enters ledge-
layered

powder
lichen green light
spreading

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cave low
in wall, lintel
slipping

red-purpled
bramble branch
creeps through stones
spaces, trails before, below

walled-in water heard
trailing under-hill
flat fern reed seam wet
where it went

to let through-flow
under
be gathered
trough
for animals to lap?

for quarrymen to drink?
to wash cut stone and slate?
to form a well where women came
from farms, jug on that ledge
in dank green space?

out into sun
lone wall posts
mole hills
stone heaps
all-black against
high valley
side
under-moor

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December: Blackpool Bridge

i.m. Dakota people of Bdote/Fort Snelling, Minneapolis, 1862

in
over-lapped
snow-curved
space
dark-gold
bdote
flows

down valley-line
snow birches
grow out
white
between green

stalks
bracken
heather
tops through
crystalline
flaw

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heard water
flow freeze flow

January: Spring Lane

wall end edge hangs
holds
from fall
into
reed light
space
weight
wait
ice planes
cast up
over path
poised
against frozen
grass
far path curves
up to
unseen
stop and along
folded field side
on side on side
plane breaks sky

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