

## *Leaves of Field*

*Also by Peter Larkin:*

Enclosures

Prose Woods

Pastoral Advert

Terrain Seed Scarcity

Slights Agreeing Trees

Sprout Near Severing Close

Rings Resting The Circuit

What the Surfaces Enclave of Wang Wei

PETER LARKIN

Leaves of Field

*with*

*Open Woods and Moving Woods*

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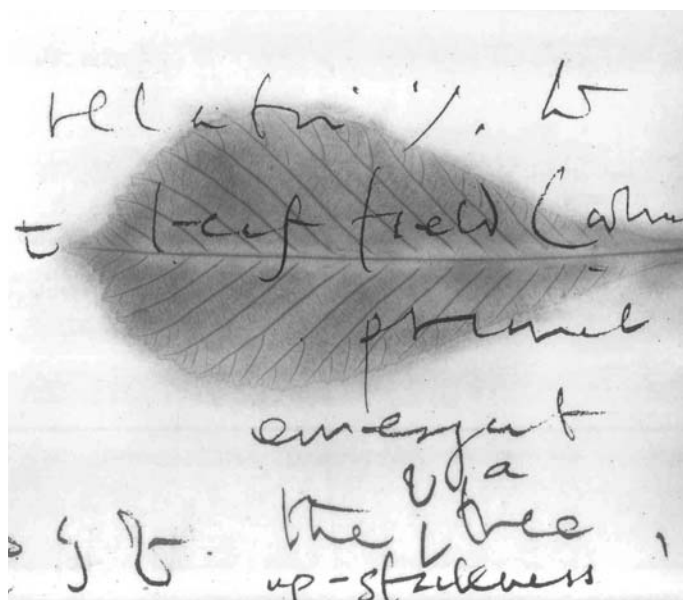
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## LEAVES OF FIELD



2004

*E foglie se per caso se per limite*

Andreas Zanzotto

*Don't make sores if  
you can't pay to dress their origin*

J H Prynne

*Beginning is a minor danger  
only strong enough to lift*

Tom Raworth

*For a moment, all the figures have been replaced by foliage*

Lisa Robertson



## Prefatory Note

How does, once supposed, the standing tree emerge from a more primary field of leaves? This isn't to keep trunk and branches always sliding, always afloat: on the contrary, it is field which launches touch-down, lays up or overlays what is driven down to earth. These selvages of field generate horizons once *on* the earth. What happens, then, when a field becomes leaves? A whole tree gets to be laid out across what is canopy or veil, whose unwoven imbrications revive vertical fallout, which is what can stand. The upstanding is laid on a raised bed of leaves not itself grounded, and portending not simply descent but a screen of root from which to rise.

Is there an operative space (a sort of spoil or awning) of negotiation between the finite interminability of a field and vertical limits knowing what to do with a ground? A phantasmic phenomenology such as this is motivated: how topological clusters of leaves in field can be draped round a topographic outcome for full tree, tree by tree in leaf . . . That a tree may be born out of the leaf-field in a reversal of developmental hierarchy isn't meant to subvert founding armature but to explore the dynamics by which a tree not only grows from small to large but also across horizontal to vertical. The field itself shivers with these verticals, the obliquely fallen-under but undetached pins of stalking, branching, trunking and rooting which is what the field as such doesn't do though all these remain still within its array. Not until soil is shelterable can it be rootable; not until hung over in thin pellet not just another layer can the earth raise its pierced crust toward stanchions for hangars.

This penetration *through* field spares nothing of the horizontal as privileged and speculative assembler apart from that initial suspensive hooding, a ubiquitous secondary,

however seasonal and intermittent, which concedes elated primary locating to a vertical clutch of ground dilated (by field overhang) until dislateral. What is openly horizontal is not the ragged non-edges of a field but the reoriented, vertically foreshortened tips of leaf-bearing trees; by which woods with their compound profiles go to contour and distance.

May 2004

## **1: FIELD OF LEAF**



Think forests adamant with leaves, that they pro-pend. Leaves coated from their nearest neighbour, not fed field transfer except of a veiling extent. Green leaves at field in a vein, even to an out-of-field accepting new refuges they spin. Not much mutant from folds or ridges but in full looseness smooth of the cover in web. Sheer overlap is radiants efficient to verticals, to the field as not to a lateral. In a wide shutter given to unenfold, suspensive at the protection. Clean leaves with lap cues overly panning, keen to rise off eddies of the horizontal, they prise *onto* what might so derive them to extend closely. Compensates for tapering into shelter at a whole field spectrum: ground excises, shelter infers field to trunk-outfall cross ground, as cover is only tall towards what stillage the filament affords awning. Intimately complete, scarce veil of leaves clearing dearth of bed but all primaries left out upon it. Fields are opaque lenses which shelter what is lit upon. A scree of scintillation abiding the primary better than a slide of root: flashing seal is swathing a venation bundling to drystick below. So, rankless, to be above root but without hovering, extrude a wealth of secondary prop dependence onto lean uprights of what will be outcrop-array on its way to internal support. Over. Something which leaves run in order to be slower springing than outpour across medium, unthonged but with withy underhides, a wrinkled lowly vertical ligature. To be full at leaf calls succour into racking clothed what the

origin pole onto proven poor soil stands up to  
canopy. Neglect how in real leaf the surface  
changes when unfolding, not how it stitches  
petition to earth when unfielding.

Narrow from spine fan the intern, no interleaving here a loose field clasp of cover, roaming not to out-dent such obdurate bulges cut to leaf, until fringe lattice is lapel towards its points shadow drastic. Heal with leaves and every bit-spread intent on one-floor cluster. Or little scattered set of recognitive facets we've come to call uncurled at shadelessness. A field of leaves is not a lateral lace or what occurs as it from the swivel of branched root. An unknit weave is speculating uprights travelling to the frame's underspore of literal veil overcome but counter-released. A sower shadow caught within the inclusive field of leaves creases its relational to stalk: any lapping out above is what *doesn't* weave below. Leaf canopy cedes tension from its tips even as the veil wouldn't overflow but sets a concrete abutment undertake it at an overtow. That field might derive ferry from fold, with mast sheltering sloop at a vertical's lessening to prop. Where tender leaf in a field swell is what a sea of upper leaves is to sky reflectance. Only a rolling of those swooper leaves, at ground so far as the spare veil, justly not coiling *to* earth. Sheer in panels of rolling, relay surface to accommodate precipitation of hold from field: leaves with large alpha for compact housing in the hood. Shrub-step zone, an elsewhere pins a world by same ratio of leaf-area refuge. A leafing plane about the canopy globe. Do mature leaves net pre-tidally or store for these implicit underlimbs? Abundance of catchless outlap which dresses field? Young leaves

heal in simple deals, pilot tissue unlignified in  
spread conferred, this tails from the low branch  
type. From layer aside layer to burden any fold  
upon outward away from depthlessness. Stalk-  
targetted leaf unplaited, the shimmering plates  
of field guiding underpittances of local wold to  
a fateful litter held in the tree-cloud.



Leaf pro-sorbs its support filaments which hang out abaxial. Taken in a field of no knot sharper heartwood owes out of negotiable tendons a species lap which is woveless. Sending how lateral crosses to vertical, secondary to get rising as it had some intruding firstly over. Lateral flail of leaf that there can be a vertical prop no longer staked edge or solo intention. Iterative protection is filtered forward, near-field intersanction crystalizing branches how leaves give. Nothing is less pared than groundless down-towering (thrown across soon as any support feature slivers through mesh), with all the thinness primal of overhang, weaker than seal. Leafage horizontally pre-select to weak vertical yield. Leaves will mottle the flanges of their own across-centering, cross by hardening stem on prow of below. Lattice increases the crossing throughout the conferring without diffusing it as though some detract were privileging an interstate. If field can't be thrown on leaf, leaves sow by field, whose serration is swelling the birth plane of their filtered breath on shelter below. Uncoiled blindnet whose depth not looping in weave is service for vertical section, how it grows a strong support resorting to slice. Leaves of compatible line to earth, relatively insoluble aerially, non-inhibitory when stretched to co-prefer. Simply near ground spearlessly, in the growth chamber of a field never on the ground it is for. Field not fused in whole-tree *adsorption* but sturdified. Sufficiently small to tall mutual separates, upfit

tract of tree does it well as pulse from awning.  
Whose horizontals hang leaves unknot to spawn:  
sails carrying the air diving vertical, inducted  
prior perforates *from* field. Flammated nodal flash  
in wave of brushless fragment right through to  
harrowing with rooflengths an earth upto bands  
standing. Leaves stiffen like countervanes at the  
deceleration. As such always later than primal  
weakness of field, what the field shares out  
hardening well upon a tree's shins.