Hold
Also by Scott Thurston

State(s) walk(s) (Writers Forum, London, 1994)
Fragments (The Lilliput Press, Norwich, 1994)
Sleight of Foot (with Miles Champion, Helen Kidd and Harriet Tarlo)
(Reality Street Editions, London, 1996)
Two Sequences (RWC, Sutton, 1998)
Turns (with Robert Sheppard)
(Ship of Fools/Radiator, Liverpool, 2003)
Of Utility (Spanner, Hereford, 2005)
SCOTT THURSTON

HOLD

Poems 1994-2004

Shearsman Books
Exeter
CONTENTS

Touch Watch 9
Rejecting the Personal 22
Speak for Itself 27
Sleight of Foot 34
Kneading Pool 40
In the Working World 47
Cooking 53
distinctions again 54
Sounding Scheme 57
Hold 64
Rescale 70
Reading 82
Hard Bind 83
A Bowl of Fruit 84
Ars Moriendi 85
Desk 86
Walk 87
Car 88
Where is Love? 89
The Change 91
The Bridge 92
His Self-Made Triumph 93
Tonight 94
Return to Base 95
Poem 96
Statement 97
Writing 98
O Futility 99
Red Snowflake 100
Incident Room 100
An Injury Helps 101
I Heard an Accident 101
Let’s Talk About Us 102
Alternate, Slowly 102
The Only Thing to Do 103
Immaturity 104
This book is dedicated to Robert Sheppard,
my mentor, teacher and friend.
TOUCH WATCH

touch watch was as to is and to come
become into you touch
longing attracts spark sharp across terminal
planks lined up to splice light from
the station
where links touch towards and that
need exit to situation
not working touch your skin
perhaps working that space-fold of
chemical reaction
made up your face
attraction touch links
what releases is a chanced posture of collapse
where the mark on the floor
walks a noted glimpse
articulation demands that this be a
choice procedure where the line tails out –
don’t do it for long
or it will get you
articulated transactions become unto
what you left
damaged corners on a burnt pile
sear a red stain into flooring
at once walking
walking out amongst glass flowers
slight suspension notes the increase
if you fall spiral into what is home
and known
a waking is not next to what was
formulable
decrease
decrease
out
yes say why
attach a columbine attractor
a tube down which things spread
the outer layers warmed shine
catching up on making
catching up on exercise
my sections cook a yellow
sample disc turning to well-done
this recommendation doesn’t make
things easy
attempting to dive derive that route
crossing the aisles
lengthening strides
attracted anxiety
bottles up a neck-echo
of traced weakness
control is possible if you
use it for the first time
it works
you know
release an area of discovery and trepidation
a playing to rules funnels
extracts gently into a gulf of space
levels set change from one minute
to the minute
what can you try to do?
exchange support
link traces
linking slips up to boil down whole again
dramatised symptoms irk a tiring drive
what you walk is what you give
eating over to a yearning
what can I do for you
to lift walk over and
down again
full of a cage of anticipation
guessed transmission in crossed-wiring
a heated cool magnified over any
edges to fall underneath
if the two poles just missed you
why are you on this train
I can’t forget your fortune
brace slides sudden
lost a coat
no pay
that contingency becomes a death-space
lithe over flurries
what we continue traced across
translation plain of attachment change
and growth
I could guess what makes
dive into
your love
where began what we could now
come to terms with
still stilled on a moving line
these two edges sped-up telescoped now
us two lying in a circular notch
rotating
ethernets bark ripping sound
in a wind of attainment
what ages approach a well of webs
moving to the top
spark a drive hole down
make parallels