

‘Off path, counter path’: contemporary walking collaborations in landscape, art and poetry

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Harriet Tarlo and Judith Tucker

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This is a jointly authored practice-led essay by a poet and artist who have produced place-based work based on slow-walking practices for exhibition and publication since 2011. It is developed out of close reading of our own work, our key consideration being whether and how collaborative walking and art together might be conceived of as counter-cultural. We consider our walking inheritance, from the Romantics, via Thoreau to mid-century painters and poets and contemporary eco-critical theorists including Doreen Massey, Yi-fu Tan, Dee Heddon and Richard Kerridge. We trace changes in theoretical and artistic approaches to walking, perception and making art together. We reference other contemporary poet and artist pairings including the Frances Presley and Irma Irsara and Thomas A Clark and Laurie Clark. Finally, We consider how walking and working collaboratively in different artistic media might produce work which challenges and affects viewers of the work in gallery and book spaces. (150)

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Harriet Tarlo has published several volumes of poetry with Shearsman Press and two artists' books with Judith Tucker (Wild Pansy Press). She is editor of *The Ground Aslant: An Anthology of Radical Landscape Poetry* (Shearsman, 2011) and has published many critical essays on modernist and contemporary poetry, landscape, place and environment. (50)

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Judith Tucker has exhibited extensively both in the UK and abroad, recent showings in collaboration with Harriet Tarlo include Minneapolis, Lyon, Sheffield, Plymouth, Southampton, Cambridge, Aldeburgh, Exeter, and Cleethorpes. She also writes academic essays which can be found in academic journals and in books published by Rodopi, Macmillan and MUP. (50)

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