

A tree falls in the forest and I am/ there to make sure no one hears it./Beloved: It's not that I am/unwilling to be seized by sound,/ everyday I am undone by it.

Khando Langri

Poems, short fiction and scripts from UK Deaf, deaf and Hard of Hearing writers.

Our poets and authors were given the theme of Movement. They have interpreted this in many ways: movement as communication and connection, mobility, and stillness, being moved emotionally, movement within and after Lockdown, freedom of movement, and being part of a political movement, and even getting lost!

Edited by Lisa Kelly co-editor of Magma 69, The Deaf Issue; co-Chair of Magma Poetry, and Sophie Stone, RADA trained actor, Writer: Paine's Plough, The Bunker, BBC Radio 3 and Co-founder of DH Ensemble theatre Co; with a preface from Raymond Antrobus.

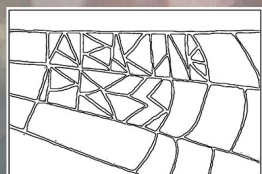
Includes work from

Alison Campbell, Ayesha Gavin, Bryony Parkes, Charlie Swinbourne, Clare-Louise English, Colly Metcalfe, David Callin, Dee Cooke, Diane Dobson, DL Williams, Elizabeth Ward, Emma Lee, Hala Hashem, Janet Hatherley, Jay Caldwell, John Kefala Kerr, John Wilson, Josephine Dickinson, Julie Boden, Khando Langri, Ksenia Balabina, Liam O'Dell, Lianne Herbert, Lynn Buckle, Marilyn Longstaff, Maryam Ebrahim, Mary-Jayne Russell de Clifford, Melanie Jayne Ashford, Rodney Wood, Sahera Khan, Samantha Baines, Sarah Clarke, Sarah O Adedeji, Sophie Woolley, Terri Donovan.



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Cover design © Nina Thomas 2021

£9.99 ISBN 978-1-913665-48-7



What Meets the Eye?

Edited by Lisa Kelly and Sophie Stone

ARACHNE PRESS

What Meets the Eye?

The Deaf Perspective

Edited by

Lisa Kelly and Sophie Stone

ARACHNE PRESS

WHAT MEETS THE EYE?
THE DEAF PERSPECTIVE

Edited by
Lisa Kelly and Sophie Stone

ARACHNE PRESS

First published in UK 2021 by Arachne Press Limited
100 Grierson Road, London SE23 1NX
www.arachnepress.com
© Arachne Press 2021
ISBNs
Print 978-1-913665-48-7
eBook 978-1-913665-49-4

These poems and stories are also available in BSL on the Arachne Press website: arachnepress.com

The moral rights of the authors have been asserted.
Detailed copyright on page 3.

All rights reserved. This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior written consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

Except for short passages for review purposes no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission of Arachne Press Limited.

Thanks to Muireann Grealy for her proofing.
Thanks to Nina Thomas for her cover design.

Printed on wood-free paper in the UK by TJ Books, Padstow.

The publication of this book is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Acknowledgements

Introduction © Lisa Kelly & Sophie Stone 2021
Preface © Raymond Antrobus 2021
A Map towards Fluency and *Ear Trumpet* © Lisa Kelly first published Carcanet Press 2019 reprinted with their permission
A Word of Warning and *Pushing Boundaries* © Clare-Louise English 2021
After Stagnation © Melanie Jayne Ashford 2021
After the Row and *Paper Bags Always Meant One Thing* © Alison Campbell 2021
Ailbhe's Tale © Lynn Buckle 2021
Bones Under their Feet and *La Favourite* © Josephine Dickinson 2021
Circus of Change © Ksenia Balabina 2021
Coastal Walking for the Hard of Hearing © David Callin 2021
Coffee Shop © Colly Metcalfe 2021
de Belder Guido © Rodney Wood 2021
Deaf Rights, *The Dancer* and *The Silent Linguist* © Sarah O Adedeji 2021
Delorean © Charlie Swinbourne 2021
De-stiffen © Dee Cooke 2021
Dream Catcher and *Sea Pool* © Marilyn Longstaff 2021
Ear Trumpet © Lisa Kelly first published
First as Body, then as Metaphor © Khando Langri 2021
Fish and the Blue-Arsed Fly and *In Two Minds* © Julie Boden 2021
Growing Pains and *Loops* © Elizabeth Ward 2021
I Will Talk For You and *Silent* © Maryam Ebrahim 2021
I, Nyx © Sophie Stone 2021
In Memory of our Father and *Sense of Direction* © Ayesha B. Gavin 2021
Label © Mary-Jayne Russell de Clifford 2021
Lockdown Lyric © John Kefala Kerr 2021
MAPping a New Landscape © DL Williams 2021
Moving Words © Bryony Parkes 2021
My Glow © Sahera Khan 2021
Neutral © Sophie Woolley developed with support from Hot Coals Productions [date?]
No Return – Move On and *Now* © Maggie Arbeid 2021
One or Two Interesting Facts about Dad and *With My Back to the Wall* © Janet Hatherley 2021

Quiet Twosome © Samantha Baines 2021
The Cycle © Terri Jade Donovan 2021
The Dice Players © John Wilson 2021
The Home Secretary Doth Protest Too Much © Liam O'Dell 2021
This is Not a Race © Sarah Clarke 2021
Thursday 7th November 2019 and *Why Can't You Learn Sign Language?*
© Lianne Herbert 2021
Tracking Sounds, Crossing Borders © Emma Lee 2021
Wagging the Dog © Jay Caldwell 2021
Walking is an Option © Diane Dobson 2021
Where is Syria? © Hala Hashem 2021

Quotations from *Elegy in Translation* by Meg Day by kind permission of the author.

Quotations from *Diary of a Newly Wed Poet, To Cadiz on the Train January 28th, Ideal Arrival, New York Night* and *Time and Space*, from *The Poet and the Sea*, by Juan Ramón Jiménez translated by Mary Berg and Dennis Maloney, White Pine Press by kind permission of the publishers.

Quotation from *I Am Not I* from *Lorca & Jimenez: Selected Poems* by Robert Bly, Beacon Press, by kind permission of the publishers.

WHAT MEETS THE EYE? THE DEAF PERSPECTIVE

John Kefala Kerr
Lockdown Lyric

I
out of milk, we hit the back lanes
(there are zombies about!)

a discarded heater lies on its back
so many others like that Bowie would say

we have almond milk but it curdles
I drink it anyway, recalling my nightmare:

sabotaged elevator, trapped occupants,
lockdown handle, desperate bid to escape.

you are the perfect companion (a Darling Bud)
your instincts frugal... no, opulent—

grocery slots appear at midnight
the supermarket Santa wears green

DME stands for 'distance measuring equipment'
the calibration in tenths of a mile—

OK for planes but too crude for pandemics—
our eyes identify targets and our legs respond:

avoid the huge dog, the roundabout,
Marie Celeste buses, magpies on pavements

at dusk, the electric star is underlined
by a chalky stripe from a rare high flyer;

the vapour drifts, deserting the star,
draping the moon in a gauzy chemise

the birds' evensong is balloon-twist magic,
a sweep across the AM dial

today we went out in our thin shoes
and you said it was like walking in slippers

the next day I said:
do you remember us going out in our thin shoes?
and you said:
yes, they were very thin.

II
what are those trolleys called that you push?
the woman at the clinic had one

examining the zip – she says, *it goes
this way, but I'm right-handed!*

I respond with lockdown fads—
new guitar strings, fixing bikes...

test rides happen in the back lane
with the SUV guys revving up

Captain Tom had a trolley,
but the SUV guys have real power

they demonstrate it, on hire,
via Audi, Mercedes, BMW

the junkies are out early
(emergency rendezvous)

some people wear masks
but we prefer to zig-zag

between the Corner of Death
and the Phone Box of Birth

III
this can't be my neighbourhood
what a lovely place!

hello sky, hello air, hello England
goodbye... other things

see the hedges of the deprived
clipped close to topiary

and the ornamental
Dyson posing for my lens?

I want to write songs again
be a teenage bard—

Land of Epidemiology
(my biggest hit),
The Risks of Unfettered Capitalism
(the B-side)

we listen to the squeaky-wheel bird
before boarding our boat (the sofa),

which floats on a sea of laminate,
and drink tea after sleep...

pondering our next move,
we save *Scotland from Above* for later

and ride out to the contaminated beach
to see the duck

IV

we pushed the boat out today
far enough to conjure a marina

and equate the dinghy there
to alfresco sausages and beer

we pedalled a teardrop route,
avoidance looming large

and drinkable things piling up
—milk, beer, detergent...

V

at night people can't breathe
and this is the real evacuation

that VE Day can't swallow
in this smash-and-grab war

for air (the pinched prize)
where the pressure drops

and the tube in the mouth
and the pipe in the throat

make now a time of panic
of agents of medicine

attending to ditched vessels
and cries for a scuba team

and faces behind screens
bringing gusts of love

—all entirely breathable
though not by lungs

**Link to BSL videos
by the authors, and translators**
<https://bit.ly/3BK0y3k>



About Arachne Press

Arachne Press is a micro publisher of (award-winning!) short story and poetry anthologies and collections, novels including a Carnegie Medal nominated young adult novel, and a photographic portrait collection.

We are expanding our range all the time, but the short form is our first love. We keep fiction and poetry live, through readings, festivals (in particular our Solstice Shorts Festival), workshops, exhibitions and all things to do with writing.

<https://arachnepress.com/>

Follow us on Twitter:

@ArachnePress

@SolShorts

Like us on Facebook:

ArachnePress

SolsticeShorts2014

What Meets the Eye, the Deaf Perspective, is the second in a series of anthologies loosely linked by the theme of Maps and Mapping.

Already available *Where We Find Ourselves*

Coming soon:

Words from the Brink, Solstice Shorts 2021, Climate Crisis, Dec 2021
and

A470, Bilingual Poems for the Road, Mar 2022 (Welsh & English.)

Find out more about our authors at

<https://arachnepress.com/writers/>

