



Lunar Walk Anthology

Hugh Greasley and Helena Eflerová



Introduction

Lunar Walk is a performance piece with dance and poetry created and performed by Helena Eflerová and Hugh Greasley. It was inspired by exploratory overnight walks at full moon along the River Itchen in Hampshire, UK and by prenatal issues. The walks would take about eight and a half hours, often from dusk to near dawn reflecting the eight and a half lunar months that a typical pregnancy takes. The number of poems in the piece - eight - also reflects this.

Photographs by Joe Low



Falling

I am held above the river
for a second,
surrounded by
a dancing net of Mayflies.
An orange moon
balances on the misty bushes
of water meadows.
White cows lie
submerged in summer grass
A night wind buffets me
Ungrounded
I do not know
where I am.



Laminar

Slipping in sliding water,
tall weeds grasp, coil
wrap and trap me,
soft mud holds my feet.
Soundless lightning flickers in the north
and a full moon shines to the south
giving bright edges to clouds.
An owl calls
and minnows shoal
by a concrete ledge
in the shallows
in the protecting darkness.



Turbulence

Tumbling in the ruins
curled in a white twist -
uncertain, confused and lost.
Past overturned Victorian brickwork,
bruising bricks and lime
hold the barging, beating water.
I swallow water
and the river drinks me.



Hidden Heart

Under the falls
lies a hidden heart of the river
soft light filters from above
pulsating on the concrete wall
of an old lock.
Sleepy Trout slide about chalk boulders.
The current eddies backwards
flowing towards the white hills
and springs.
Time slows.



Gills

When I was a fish
in the middle time
I had gills and a tail.
Other fishes became fish and even birds
but I became myself
The first gill became my mouth, my lips, my jaw
my check and my ears
and now when I talk and listen
I use my gills.



Silence

Night river silence
framed by the far fall of a leaf,
a deer calling from a distant meadow
the faint whisper of my clothes
my heart pulsing
my rasping breath
the crackling sound of my mind
and also impossible noises
the sound of the rising moon
far craters rimmed with sunlight
rubbing against willow leaves
with a slight hiss.
Soft leaves caress distant mountains
trying to hold the moon back
and hold it captive in the river trees.



River Goddess

To the goddess Ancasta, Geminus Manilius
willingly and deservedly fulfills his vow

River Goddess, clear and cold
soft in the loose inherited clothes
of a wide valley.
Who saw you last,
in the reeds and willows?
Who was the last person who truly believed in you,
that muttered a last prayer to you?
Who left the last votive offering
cast onto the dancing water?
Only a name now whispers on.



Vortices

Vortices spinning in the stream
nothing but holes in the water
nothing but something
nothing spinning between worlds
nothing but a folding of fast into slow
nothing but a longing of water
to be flat
nothing but movement
nothing but voids
that move with the stream
pulling water about them
wrapping up their surroundings
that slowly losing energy
and dying.



HELENA EFLEROVÁ

Helena Eflerová is a professional multidisciplinary artist who employs direct dialogue between artist and viewer, utilising physical engagement and non-verbal language as communication. Her Fine Art Masters Degree research explored the fusion of underwater live performance, video installation and human prenatal theories by combining five disciplines: Live Art, Butoh, Prenatal/Peri-natal Psychology, Bio-science and Apnea.

Eflerová has shown work in universities, art galleries, off-site, non-gallery/heritage and site-specific environments. Acquiring numerous commissions and exhibitions in the UK and abroad including: Para Haus Contemporary Art Exhibition (Parallel to the São Paulo Art Biennial, São Paulo, Brazil 2010); Mottisfont (the National Trust and Arts Council England 2012); and Winchester Cathedral (10 days Creative Collisions and Arts Council England 2013).

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HUGH GREASLEY

Hugh Greasley is a poet and painter. His poetry has appeared in the anthologies *Coming Clean* (2009) *Guided by Surprise* (2011) *The Inner Sea* (2013) and *The Tide Clock* (2015).

Hugh uses poetry as a means of exploring landscapes, people and memory. Explorations can be about such things as the experience of touching the belly of a Wolf or walking a Cornish beach at night in the teeth of a winter's gale to visit a shipwreck.

Hugh also works as a visual artist and has had a scientific education culminating in a degree in Chemical Engineering.

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"Beautiful! The ambience/atmosphere created by a combination of the stone, the light, the pace of your movements and sounds..... a little bit of medicine for the soul."

- Helen Richards, 2015.

"Privilege to watch Helena Eflerová & Hugh Greasley perform their mesmerising 'Lunar Walk' in candlelit Cathedral tonight."

- Jo Barker Scott, 2015.

"Stunning performance art/poetry. More please."

- Rebecca Lyon, 2015.

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