

Statement for LANGUAGE TO COVER A WALL

As a broad brush generalisation, one can say that one of Guy's centres of attention is in making book- and book-related objects; while one of Lawrence's is in making poems and vocal scores for performance; and in the performances themselves.

We met in the late 1990s, found we were intrigued by many of the same things, and spent a week intermittently discussing them, particularly the making of book works; and we have maintained considerable mutual respect; without having any great contact since.

The mere fact of living in different cities, and with busy lives, has discouraged collaboration, which both of us experience as a physical rather than a cerebral activity, one arising from live presence and informal discussion.

We started making work together in 2010 in response to a commission for research purposes from University of Dundee.

The collaboration has produced both a range of realised and planned works; and, also, a colloquial meditation upon what it means to collaborate which declares itself through the works.

It involves considerations of conscious and unconscious decision-making, the integration of differing skills and the reconciliation of aesthetic assumptions in order to achieve empathy, which, we suggest, takes us beyond mere cooperation as we seek to merge what is, clumsily, called individual creativity, to achieve what might seem to be, in effect, the work of one mind, what Burroughs and Gysin termed a *third mind*.

Our work, however, does not seek to remove, disguise or smooth over different physicalities; it retains its gestural origins.

It is our belief that this work, **Namely**, points to another territory yet which we may, perhaps, only visit together, with the other. It is likely to be as full a collaboration as we have yet achieved'.

Underlying all our works is the concept of reading, as itself performance and as (potential perhaps actual) utterance, areas of activity we they hope to expand as we explore them together.

Lawrence Upton & Guy Begbie

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