

## INSATIABLE CARROT 34524

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In 2013 I undertook several gardening writing residencies to investigate how immersion in particular environments affects poetry drafted in these contexts, and what synchronicities might be expected between internal and external physical conditions and poetic output. This built on research in my *Edward Thomas: the Origins of His Poetry*, which examined Thomas's and my creative processes to identify physical and contextual elements in poetic composition processes, and the importance of physical and mental displacement accompanied by flexible 'divagatory' attention during creative composition.

During the gardening residencies I kept location and drafting records. These were developed into *insatiable carrot*, mainly ordered in terms of visual innovation. The result was chronological: groups of poems correspond to the residencies during which they were composed. The residencies involving the most radical and unconventional gardening practices and the greatest challenge to my belief systems – Incredible Farm and Incredible Edible Gift Economy Eco Farm – produced the most innovative poems. These poems, set in hybrid forms and employing methodologies I had never adopted before, involved visual typography and layout in textual and visual art, with emphasis on paratext and threshold.

The research shows different gardening residencies produce different kinds and forms of poem. It also indicates that innovation in poetic form or effect is connected to challenges to the poet's more habitual ways of thinking and physical experience, and that hybridization, as Bakhtin and Bhabha have posited, tends to occur when 'a new alliance formulates itself, [for] it may demand that you should translate your principles, rethink them, extend them' (Bhabha 1990, 216). This is further explored in my 'Embodiment in Gardening: Hybridized Poetics' in *Austerity Gardening*.

Dissemination has been via North England poetry readings; Incredible Edible outdoor installations and blog; International IAWIS/AIERTI conference, Dundee (2014); European Poetry by Women Marathon, Brasov University, Romania (2013).