

A BOX OF IDEAS

Stephen Emmerson

A book of poems written using annotations found
in other books of poems.

A book of poems containing transcriptions of poets introducing their work at poetry readings.

A book of poems called *An Introduction to Zen Poetry*.

It consists of scanned images of the blank inside front pages of books of Zen poetry.

A book of poems called *Copyright*.

The book is blank and comes with a pencil that has Copyright Stephen Emmerson etched onto the side of it.

There is also a card explaining that the pencil should be used to write poems in the book and that all poems written as such will be held under Copyright Stephen Emmerson.

A book of poems called *Unlucky*.

Each page is made up of the 13th line of the 13th page of 169 books.

Each page is numbered 13.

A book of poems created using a prepared typewriter.

A book of poems containing only the titles of poems.

A book of poems written through a psychic medium.

A book of poems written by cats walking on
keyboards.

A book of poems made out of the communist manifesto.

Each page is put through a different process of work:

Sanding / painting / washing / soldering / etc.

The pages are scanned and presented as visual poems.

A book of poems consisting of poets names
written on magic squares to produce sigils.

A book of poems consisting only of the poem
Destruction by Charles Baudelaire.

Each page shows the remains of the poem after
various forms of destruction.

A book of poems that is a list of poets that can drive and a list of poets that can't drive.

A book of poems called *Radio Waves*.

The book is created by switching through radio stations and writing down the first phrase you hear on each channel.

A book of poems called *White*.

It is made up of pages from other books that contain the word white.

The text of each page is painted over in white emulsion leaving only the page number visible if present.

A book of poems entitled *Ant Song* in which a translation of Rimbaud's poem *Voyelles* is crawled upon by ants.

A thirty minute video is taken of the process and for each thirty seconds of the video the words that the ants crawl on are transcribed thus creating a series of new poems.

A book of poems called *Many Skies*.

It is a year long poetic journal.

At the top of each page a description of the sky in the morning.

In the middle of each page a description of the sky in the afternoon.

At the bottom of each page a description of the sky at night.

A book of poems written via a list of subscribers. An advertisement is issued asking people to sign up for one years worth of Mail Art Poems. Subscription is £12. Every month a new poem is sent.

The first poem is a blank sheet of paper that has been screwed into a ball and flattened out again. A note is included asking the subscribers to reply.

Once the replies have been received collated and photocopied they are sent to the other subscribers on the list as if in answer to their replies. They are in turn asked to reply and their replies are again sent to each other.

This continues for the remainder of the subscription. The results are then published in an anthology.

A book of poems called *Winchelsea Beach*.

It contains descriptions of 100 stones found on the beach.

A book of poems called *Vito did it First*.

The book is composed of descriptions of ideas for artworks that turn out to have already been made/performed by Vito Acconci.

For example:

'I wanted to follow random people around the city and take notes of what they did and when. But Vito did it first.'

A book of poems called *You Can't Eat Poetry*.

The title is printed on strips of rice paper and placed inside a perspex box.

Five slugs are also placed into the box and begin to eat the rice paper.

Photographs are taken and presented as a series of visual poems.

A book of poems called *Mud*.

Each poem is a description of mud.

Instead of paper squares of birch bark are used. Each square is covered in wet mud. The text is typed onto the bark using a typewriter without a ribbon.

A book of poems called *Haikube*.

Words from classical haiku are written onto 54 small square stickers.

The stickers are then stuck over the 54 coloured squares of a Rubik's Cube.

The cube is then moved to produce random combinations of words.

The words from each 3 x 3 squared side of the cube are written down to produce new haiku.

The cube is then moved into a new position and the new combinations are written down.

This is repeated until there is enough material for a book.

A book of poems created by making and
transcribing Electronic Voice Phenomena.

A book of poems containing pages from books by writers who share the same name as poets but who are not themselves poets.

For example the poet Robert Grenier shares his name with Robert Grenier, author of *Customer Satisfaction Through Total Quality Assurance*.

The pages used are chosen by adding the first letter of their first and last names together.

For instance:

$$R(18) + G(7) = 25.$$

A book of poems as physical translation.

It contains a sealed bag of spores and a syringe.

Instructions:

Choose a paperback book of foreign language poems and wrap three elastic bands around it.

One an inch or so from the bottom one in the middle and one an inch or so from the top.

Immerse it in water over night.

The book will expand.

Allow it to drain for a while.

Inject the mushroom spores into and around the edges of the book.

Leave in a temperate area of dappled light.

Spray every few days with water.

Within a few weeks the mushrooms will appear.

The mushrooms are the translation.

A book of poems in the form of a pharmacological experiment.

Ten volunteers are selected and sent a bottle of placebo pills and instructed to take one every day at lunchtime for fourteen days.

On the fifteenth day they must then write as many poems as they can over a twenty four hour period.

The resulting texts should be sent back to the address on the bottle of pills.

These texts are then collated and published as a book of poems called *The Experiment*.

A book of poems made entirely out of footnotes.

A book of one word poems made up of misspelt words received in text messages.

A book of poems made up of images of sound waves created by poets reading their work.

A book of poems called *Mirrors* which is made up of antonymical versions of well known poems.

A book of poems written by converting the selected poems of Emily Dickinson into musical notation using the software available at <https://p22.com/musicfont/>.

The first words from 52 Dickinson poems are assigned to the white keys of a piano and the second words from 36 poems are assigned to the black keys.

The musical notation created by the software is then played on the piano and the words assigned to each note played are written down to create a new work.

A book of poems created by noting down the first thing that is said to you every day for a year.

A book of poems made up of synopses of other books of poems.

A book of poems composed of rejection letters received after submitting this sentence as a poem to various magazines.

A book of poems created by taking photographs of the covers of 75 books of poems.

Each photo is analysed by plant identification app Pl@ntNet.

Each book title is printed near the top of the page.

The edition is also stated.

Underneath this the plant or flower that has been identified as this book is printed.

For example:

Dante, The Divine Comedy: Inferno, Purgatorio,
Paradiso
Translated by Robin Kirkpatrick, Penguin Classics,
2012.

Zantedeschia Aethiopica, Altar Lily.

A book of poems called *Implied Sonnets*.

The book is A3 in size loose leafed and housed in a box.

Each sonnet is made out of objects that are used in or associated with the act of writing.

For example: A sonnet made out of strips of used typewriter ribbon cut into fourteen lengths then affixed to the page.

Other sonnets are made out of pencils / erasers / Tippex / and paper-clips.

A book of poems written using a Ouija board.

A book of poems written using the text of this poem to generate new poems.

In the first instance this text is converted into antonyms to create a second version.

Then this second version is transformed using the N7 technique to create a third version.

Then this third version is translated into Italian using google translate then into French then back into English to create a fourth version.

A different technique is used until there are ninety nine different versions.

A book of poems consisting of descriptions of other books of poems.

A book of poems written using a broken pencil.

A book of poems containing photocopies of
objects found in second hand books.

A book of poems called *Channel Surfing*.

The book is created by switching through TV stations and writing down the first phrase you hear on each channel.

A book of poems called *Bitten*.

One hundred poets are given a sheet of A5 paper and asked to bite it and sign their name at the bottom.

The sheets are then collected, scanned and published.

A book of poems called *Typewriter Landscapes*.

Each page is created by squeezing several different colours of acrylic paint onto the middle of an A4 piece of paper.

The paper is then fed into a typewriter and wound around on the rollers until it has passed through from one side to the other.

The image left on the paper is a landscape.

A book of poems called *Weather*.

The book is created by leaving an A5 piece of paper outside in an exposed area for a year.

The piece of paper is photographed every day.

The piece of paper may deteriorate quite drastically.

It may disappear completely.

If this is the case the space in which the paper was kept should be photographed.

The results are then collated and published.

A book of poems called *Micropoetry* in which each page is an image of a poem seen under a microscope.

A book of poems based on *Ghosts of my Friends* by Cecil Henland.

This book was originally published in 1913.

It is a blank book with folded pages.

At the front of the book the following instructions are printed:

Directions.

Sign your name along the fold of the paper with a full pen of ink, and then double the page over without using blotting paper.

This leads to the signature forming a Rorschach type shape on the page upon which hands and feet and heads can be drawn producing one of the *Ghosts* of the title.

In the version I am proposing a line of poetry is used on each page instead of a signature.

A book of poems containing reviews of fictional books of poems.

A book of poems called *Group Exhibition* which is made up of the textual descriptions of imaginary works of art in a fictional exhibition.

A book of poems called *Tasseography*.

Each poem is a description of tea leaves at the bottom of a cup.

A book of poems inspired by Edward De Bono's *The Dog Exercising Machine*.

A group of children aged between five and ten are asked to design a machine that automatically creates poems.

Their drawings are gathered together and presented as a book called *The Automatic Poem Machine*.

A book of poems called *Stage Directions*.

The book consists of stage directions culled from a series of plays about poets.

A book of poems called *Instantaneous Poems*.

The poems are created by choosing a book and fixing it to a board which is then hung on a wall.

A dart is thrown at the book.

All the words that the dart passes through are written down in a line.

One on top of the other.

This should be repeated until there is enough material for a book.

A book of poems called *Writing not Writing* in which every page contains a description of something that has distracted the writer from writing.

A book of poems called *From the Poets Mouth* in which a number of poets are asked to lick nutrient agar in a Petri dish.

The bacterial colonies that grow are photographed and issued as a book of visual poems.

A book of poems constructed entirely out of ideas
for books of poems.

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