



Image by [Somewhere Nowhere](#)

## 'WHERE IS THE WILD?

'TIPPING POINTS PROJECT WORKSHOPS

### ABSTRACT

A report detailing workshops run by the LDP Tipping Points project that highlighted creative reflections on "the wild", and all of its implications for human and nonhuman life in three different environments in the north of England

By Dr Lucy Rowland

Edited for the web by Rhiannon Harte-Chance

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## INTRODUCTION

Between January and March 2021, as the UK underwent the third national coronavirus lockdown, the Tipping Points project ran five free, online creative workshops for the public, based on three key Northern landscapes: [Castle Howard](#) and [Stirley Community Farm](#) in Yorkshire, and [Wild Ennerdale](#) in Cumbria.

Responding to the idea of “the wild”, and all of its implications for human and nonhuman life in these environments, each workshop offered a unique, creative reflection on the different influences and power dynamics that create our landscapes in the North. The writing workshops, run by writer [Amy-Jane Beer](#) at Castle Howard, rapper [Testament](#) at Stirley Farm, and creative duo [somewhere-nowhere](#) at Ennerdale, offered attendees new ways to respond to prompts and environmental stimulus in their writing.

The art workshops, run by artists [Judith Tucker](#) and [Melanie Rose](#), invited attendees to engage with the landscapes of Castle Howard and Stirley Farm in new and innovative ways in their artistic work. Each workshop received excellent feedback from the attendees, both via an online form and on social media: particularly praised was the effectiveness of the workshops conducted at a distance, and the enthusiasm and encouragement of both the workshop leaders and the community of attendees in each workshop.

## CASTLE HOWARD

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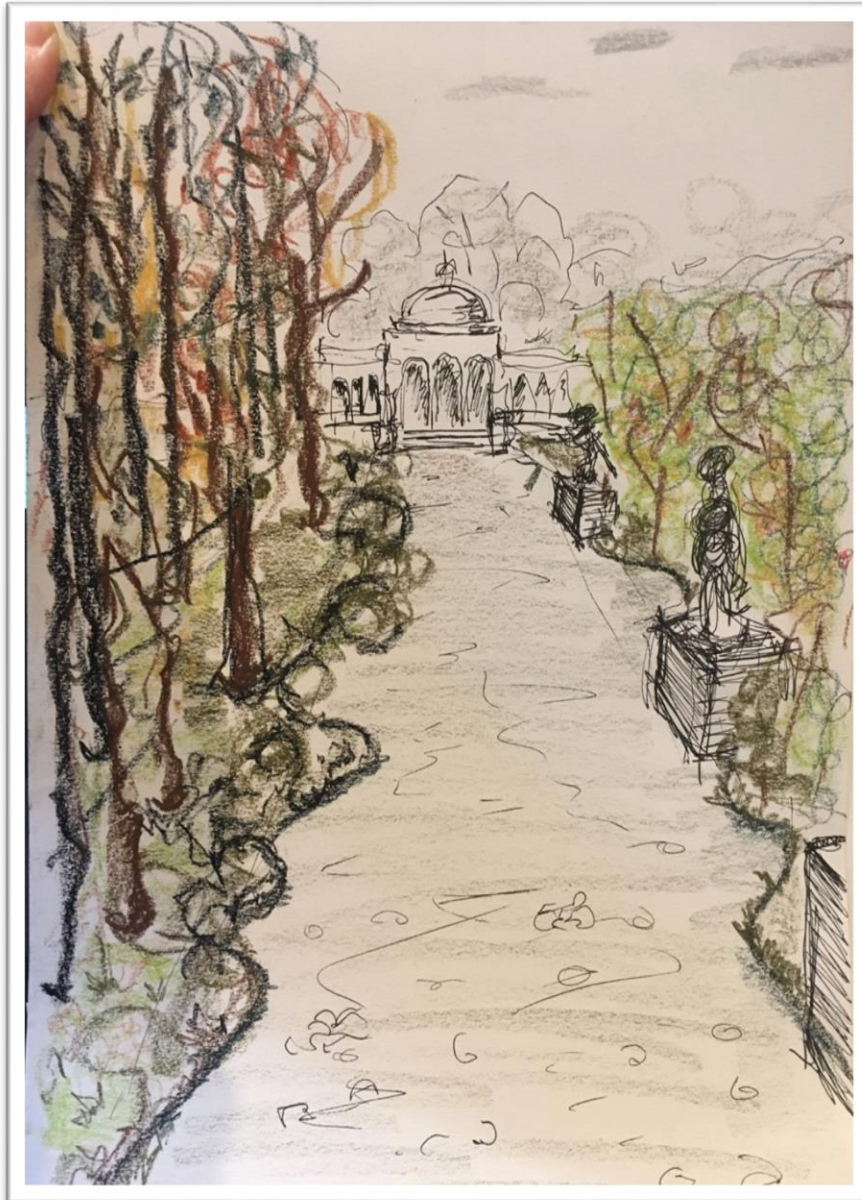
### CREATIVE ART WORKSHOP WITH JUDITH TUCKER AND MELANIE ROSE 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021

In the first workshop of the series, artists Judith Tucker and Melanie Rose led the participants on a creative journey through the landscape of Castle Howard. Making use of a

fantastic range of creative prompts, interviews and visual materials sourced from the estate team and the Castle Howard archives, the participants were encouraged to reflect on the different aspects of the Castle Howard landscape in innovative ways.

Participants produced work that ranged from collage to sketches in response to the workshop themes and key areas of interest, and they particularly enjoyed its range and scope – which is reflected in the variety and originality of the artworks produced.

**Image 1 by Milene Hayaux de Tilly**





**Image 2 by Karina Garrick**

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**NATURE WRITING WORKSHOP WITH AMY-JANE BEER  
FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup> 2021**

In this very popular workshop, members of the public joined writer and journalist Amy-Jane Beer on Zoom for a day filled with interesting discussions on the implications of “wildness” and landscape, the artificial separation of humanity and nature, and the careful balance between the “management” of nature and the importance of ecological practices such as rewilding and regenerative agriculture.

The workshop materials, including interviews with the curating and landscape management team at Castle Howard, access to maps from the Castle archives, and some stunning photographs of the estate, inspired participants of the workshop to consider new ways of looking at landscapes in their writing. A walking tour around the estate by Amy also offered participants the chance to experience the grounds from a new perspective, alongside some tips of the nature writing trade and an encouragement to learn, listen and see the wild: in even the most domestic of spaces!





**Image 3 Amy-Jane Beer, taken from her video introduction to Castle Howard**

One of the participants, Joanna Dobson, wrote an appreciative blog piece in response to the workshop: <https://landlinesproject.wordpress.com/2021/03/12/where-is-the-wild-nature-writing-workshop-with-amy-jane-beer-by-joanna-dobson/>

## ENNERDALE

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WAYS OF SEEING, WAYS OF WRITING: NATURE WRITING WORKSHOP WITH  
SOMEWHERE-NOWHERE (HARRIET AND ROB FRASER)  
FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> 2021

The third workshop to take place was based on the landscape of Ennerdale in Cumbria, and was led by creative duo somewhere-nowhere, Rob and Harriet Fraser. The participants, many living locally, joined Harriet and Rob for a day of nature writing inspired by a virtual tour of the Ennerdale landscape.

Attendees were given access to a series of short films, a selection of writing, and images, which invited them to think about the many different “ways of seeing” the Ennerdale environment. Each was also mailed a special box in advance of the workshop, full of physical materials taken from the landscape to inspire and ignite creativity: stones, soil samples, images, and more. These served as markers throughout the workshop, as attendees were guided through the process of responding creatively to each individual material.



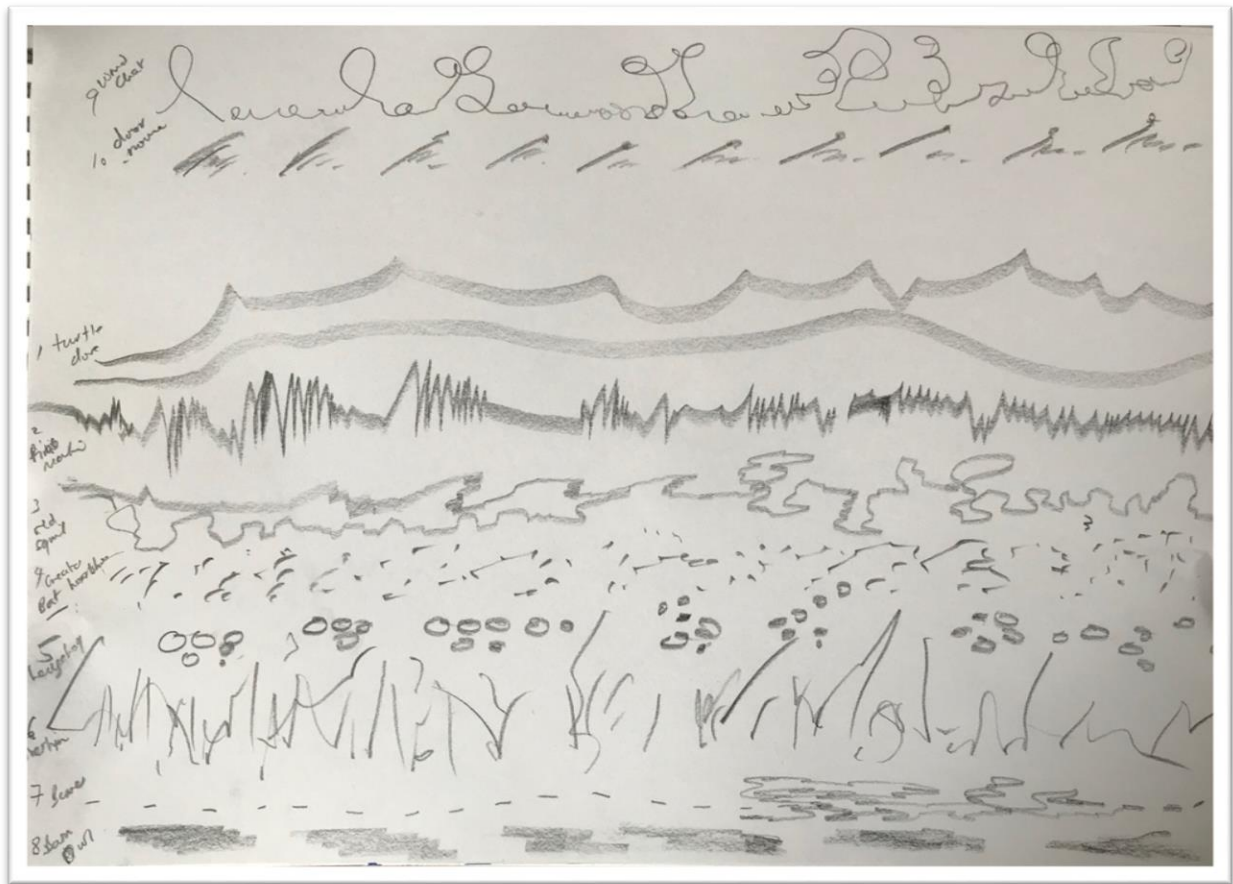
**Image 4 - Materials 'box' from the 'ways of seeing, ways of writing' workshop  
photo by Lucy Rowland**

## STIRLEY COMMUNITY FARM

CREATIVE ART WORKSHOP WITH JUDITH TUCKER AND MELANIE ROSE  
FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup> 2021

The final two workshops of the series were inspired by the landscapes and environments of Stirley Community Farm. The Creative Art workshop was again led by artists Judith Tucker and Melanie Rose, who guided the participants through a range of visually inspiring materials: filmed walks, 360 degree photographs of the Farm and its surroundings, and interviews with the team at Stirley Farm.

Participants had the opportunity to discover new artistic techniques and methods, alongside developing more familiar ones: for example rendering sound visible through sketch, or drawing while walking. In particular, participants enjoyed the mix of practical advice and time to think and reflect, alongside the chance to consider new ways of representing landscapes that they may not have encountered before.



**Image 5 Picture by Emma Tarlo**

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**NATURE WRITING WORKSHOP, "WILDSTYLE", WITH TESTAMENT  
MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup> 2021**

The final workshop was led by rapper, poet and playwright Testament, and titled "Wildstyle". Looking at writing inspired by nature in new and innovative ways, Testament invited the participants to take part in writing exercises inspired by the landscapes and environments of Stirley Farm.

Stressing the importance of connecting personally with environments, using all the senses to develop that relationship, and working with metaphor to create vivid descriptions Testament also drew on his experience as a songwriter and rapper to think about how forms other than prose can be brought to nature writing.



**Image 6 Testament - Photo by Humans of Leeds**

'Catchments' (inspired by Testament's workshop and the Stirley farm videos)

The feeling in this catchment now  
Is stormy grey, smells like vetiver,  
Sounds like hi-hat and the wind in the sailboat masts,  
Veering north, maybe gale force later

But in catchments up the river  
It's calmer and lighter  
A greening corridor  
Dynamic nature moving with the channel

Seed banks bring back what we've lost  
Regenerating  
Ragged-robin, herb Robert, great wood-rush, red campion  
Rooted and wild

My place is many miles from here  
I think about that greening  
Moving closer  
Catchment by catchment

(Anonymous)



## FOLLOW-UP

The Tipping points team and their partners are preparing an online exhibition of creative work from the workshop participants, which will go live on the Land Lines website in April <https://landlinesproject.wordpress.com/> as part of a Tipping Points festival. Links will be available on the Landscape Decisions Programme website.

All of the digital materials from the five workshops will also be made freely available on the website in early April as part of this month-long event.

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