

Walking in Air in the London Open Form Pavilion*

field work and reflective documentation (local) / collective recollection (online)

With Robert Curgenvén, Will Montgomery and Emmanuelle Waeckerlé
weekend of 8-10 September, Kensington Gardens and Cornwall

Between 8th and 10th september 2023 - Preliminary field work & documentation

At some point during the weekend, all participants walk in air in a Pavilion of Air (WM and EW in London, RC in Cornwall). You may choose to use one or more of the following prompts, or a prompt or prompts of your own choosing (texts, images, objects). Participants are also encouraged to read Tim Ingold's article 'Footprints through the weather-world: walking, breathing, knowing' (*Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, vol. 16, no. Supplement s1, pp. S121-S139).

'Park fenced with what it is winning, to keep local signals thinly home rather than universal directions out' (Peter Larkin, Imparkments (the Surrogate has Settled))

' To accept the ground./ To go to it as a question./ To open up the day inside the day,/

a bubble holding air/ bending the vista to it'. (Peter Gizzi, 'Stung', Sky Burial)

Afterwards, take some time to reflect upon the experience. Add your notes, images or recordings to [the google folder](#) ready for the collective recollection.

Recollection: evening of 20th September

Participants to meet online for a discussion of their walking in air experience and the presentation of any preliminary 'traces' (text, audio, video, images)

Submission of traces: end of October

Work generated to be submitted. This can be in any form or medium. Such traces can be finished or unfinished, ephemeral or markers of work in progress. Selected traces may, where appropriate and with permission, be published on our website and/ or in a forthcoming book publication.

* " A Pavilion of Air is a floating roof of sound extending over a specific location, triggered by GPS and accessed via a smartphone, headphones and the [echoes.xyz](#) app. A project developed by Robert Curgenvén, [The Open Form Pavilion of Air](#) series encompasses 15 locations in 9 countries, using sound and site-mapping to offer a playful renewal and reframing of public space as an essential place of engagement for the community. By walking through different zones forming this floating roof of sound using a mobile phone, the [Echoes app](#) and headphones, visitors become a participatory listener producing a composition in real-time. They hear the location and its context become transformed by the many sounds forming this floating acoustic architecture, revealing an immersive, profoundly spatial and physical experience. The Pavilion has no visible presence outside the app and can only be accessed and enjoyed on-site. The Pavilion's area takes the form of a 160 x 160 metre arrow pointing west to Ireland & the sunset. Invisibly occupying part of the Gardens, itself once a King's playground, the work's concept echoes & reframes the fading colonial notion of a "... vast [British] empire on which the sun never sets" (the words of British colonial administrator Earl George Macartney in his "An Account of Ireland in 1773 by a Late Chief Secretary of that Kingdom")." Robert Curgenvén

[Walking in Air](#) is an interdisciplinary project that encompasses walking, writing, thinking, music, performance and discussion. Drawing on Tim Ingold's suggestion that 'knowledge is formed along paths of movement in the weather-world', the project considers walking in air to be a model for speculative thinking, for creative activity and for reconsidering our place within the natural environment. The core walking events can be either collective or individual in nature. These give rise to performance, workshop discussion, texts and audio recordings, much of which will be documented online.

The co-organisers are Will Montgomery (Royal Holloway, University of London) and Emmanuelle Waeckerlé (University for the Creative Arts, Farnham). Participants are drawn from an international pool of composers, artists, environmentalists, and poets.

Will Montgomery is Reader in contemporary poetry and poetics at Royal Holloway. He has a special interest in the relationship between text scores and poetry and, as well as conventional academic criticism, he is involved in practice-based research, both as teacher and practitioner. He has published on the literary qualities of text scores and curated several events on this topic, both academic and performance-oriented.

[https://pure.royalholloway.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/will-montgomery\(c800e6f1-93a1-41c7-ad0e-1440ce2cc9bc\).html](https://pure.royalholloway.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/will-montgomery(c800e6f1-93a1-41c7-ad0e-1440ce2cc9bc).html) , www.selvageflame.com

Emmanuelle Waeckerlé is a London based academic, artist, composer and improviser interested in the materiality and musicality of language. She is Reader in Fine Art and Relational Practices and director of bookRoom at UCA Farnham. Her practice and research evolve across multiple interconnected work zones – conceptual writing, performance, new musical composition, artist-publishing, curating (here.here concert series, Cosy Nook). Her music and scores are distributed by Wandelweiser editions.

www.ewaeckerle.com , UCA profile <https://www.uca.ac.uk/staff-profiles/emmanuelle-waeckerle/>.

Walking in Air activities

Walking in air remotely (Sept 2021), with Stefan Thut, Marianne Schuppe, Antoine Beuger, Sylvia Schimag, Leni Dipple, Will Montgomery, Carol Watts, Emmanuelle Waeckerlé in collaboration with [le centre des livres d'artistes](#)

Walking in Air in Ditchling (27th-29th May 2022) with Will Montgomery, Carol Watts, Ryoko Akama, Emmanuelle Waeckerlé in collaboration with [Ditchling museum of Arts and Crafts](#).

Walking in Air in Folkestone (03/07/2022) with Diane Dever, Rubiane Maia, Will Montgomery, Sophie Stone, Emmanuelle Waeckerlé, Mick Williamson, Maureen Wolloshin, Melanie Wrigley, in collaboration with [URBAN ROOM](#)

Walking in Air in Saint-Yrieix-la-Perche (08 to 11/09/2022) with Stefan Thut, Marianne Schuppe, Antoine Beuger, Sylvia Schimag, Leni Dipple, Will Montgomery, Emmanuelle Waeckerlé in collaboration with [le centre des livres d'artistes](#)

[Walking in Air in Ditchling](#). (Pamenar online, 2023)

[Walking in Air](#), Performance Research vol 26.7 'On Air', with Will Montgomery (Sept 2022)

[Walking in Air in Thornton Heath](#). E. Waeckerlé, 5 postcards (CDLA, 2021)