

# RECOVERY POEMS

PRESS PACK



## Copy

Emergency Exit Arts (EEA) presents the Recovery Poems. How do we commemorate what's been lost as we start to take tentative steps to coming out of lockdown? What do we want to hold onto and grow? What positive changes can we make to society and the natural environment as we recover from the pandemic? Through talking and listening to communities, artists Robert Montgomery and Deanna Rodger have created an inspiring light poem that will visit public spaces as a backdrop for workshops, performances and reflections.

## CREDITS

### **Creative/Production Credits:**

Produced by Emergency Exit Arts with Deanna Rodger and Robert Montgomery

### **Funding, commissioning and partner credits**

Recovery Poem is a partnership project between Without Walls, Emergency Exit Arts, 101 Outdoor Arts, Robert Montgomery, Deanna Rodger, Thatcham Town Council.

## The Poem

[SIDE 1]

The surge of spring hides inside the blank wood of winter now we have paused in the heartland of care, made beds of sodden earth's mournful moss, our mortal thrum

[SIDE 2]

At what point do we fall into each other's arms and dance again loosening our shadow? We are vulnerable in this first light, but rising steady now, crowning in the new music.



*Mock-up of the Recover Poems*

## MARKETING ASSETS

Access the Dropbox folder [here](#). It includes:

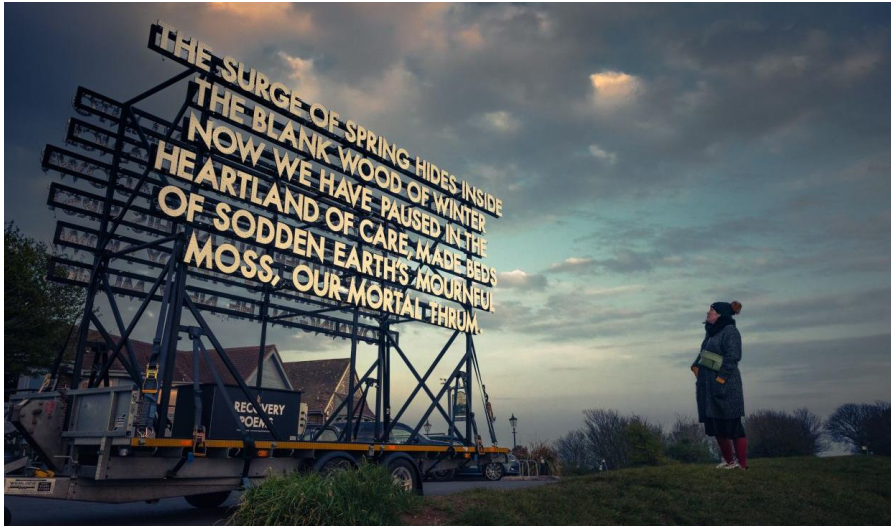
- Promo Images and Photos: [Dropbox](#)
- Drone footage: [Dropbox](#) Please credit as 'Footage courtesy of Brighton Festival'
- Logos: [Dropbox](#)

## CONTACT

For press and marketing enquiries, please contact:

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Artists Deanna Rodger and Robert Montgomery and EEA CEO Daniel Bernstein are available for press interviews. Enquire for more details.



## Poem Tracker

For your convenience, we have installed a tracker in the poems so the public can follow its movements live (Please note the tracker updates its position with a 2-minute delay)

The URL to share publicly including social media: <https://www.eea.org.uk/recovery-poems-tour>

Use the HTML code below to embed the map to your website. You may want to change the "width" and "height" values to better fit your site:

```
<iframe width="100%" height="500px" frameborder="0" style="border:0;" src="https://eea.org.uk/eea-tour" allowfullscreen></iframe>
```



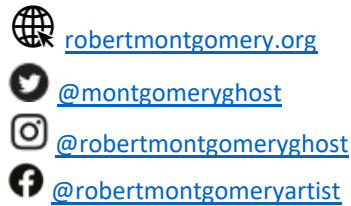
*Above: Embedded map showing the poems' location*

## WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES

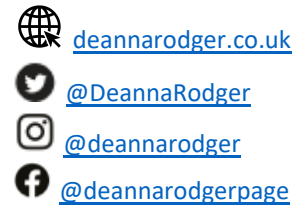
### Emergency Exit Arts



### Robert Montgomery



### Deanna Rodger



## QUOTES

**Daniel Bernstein, CEO of Emergency Exit Arts, said** “EEA are honoured to be touring Recovery Poems around the country. We have been part of the outdoor arts scene in the UK for over 40 years and we are excited to be bringing this moving new poetic piece at such an important time as collectively we try and piece our lives back together.”

**Robert Montgomery, said** “I loved writing with Deanna. A lot of us have felt very isolated over the last year. Somehow writing poetry together (even over Zoom, which is how we had to do it) created a closeness and a creative space of communion. We were trying to write about what is in the air. I hope people like it. As the poem travels, I hope it creates a moment for people to write their own poems. Poetry can have a powerful healing quality. Why not take a moment to write your own poem today, and bring it along when Recovery Poem visits your town?”

**Deanna Rodger, said** “This collaborative poem began with a conversation between strangers. Robert and I, not knowing each other before, conversed specifically and candidly about where we are at now (family, work, sense of home) and where we have come from; our family history, and upbringing. This lent a consideration to our writing of 'what happens next?' How we hold this global experience, what we root it in and how we make sense of it to retell it. I hope strangers meet the Recovery poem and are encouraged by it to write and share their stories of this time”



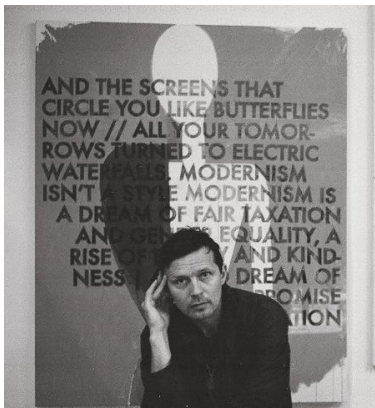
## BIOS



**Emergency Exit Arts** began in 1980 as an artists' collective born out of a desire to radically transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. At a time of social and political change we aspired to make a positive difference to people's lives, particularly those who were discriminated against and those living in economically excluded communities across London and the UK. Now a registered charity and one of the Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations, EEA has evolved into the reputable outdoor arts company it is today, still pioneering and still inspiring change through creativity.



**Deanna Rodger** is a leading poet in the UK. She has been welcomed to perform and facilitate workshops all across the world incl.; Mexico, Sudan, and Beirut, and has been commissioned by institutions such as; FIFA, St Paul's Cathedral, Young Vic, and BBC. She is a former UK Slam Poetry champion and represented the UK for poetry at the International Biennale, Rome 2011. She designs and delivers educational programs, and tutors at the School of Communication Arts and is a founding member of Keats House Poetry Forum and Chill Pill. Most recently her reimaged version of 'If' was read by Serena Williams.



**Robert Montgomery** is a Scottish-born, London-based poet, artist and sculptor known for his site-specific installations created from light and text, as well as his 'fire poems'. He follows a tradition of conceptual art and stands out by bringing a poetic voice to the discourse of text art. Montgomery creates billboard poems, light pieces, fire poems, woodcuts and watercolours. He was the British artist selected for Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2012, the first biennale in India. Montgomery has had solo exhibitions at venues in Europe and in Asia, including major outdoor light installations on the site of the old US Air Force base at Tempelhof. The first monograph of his work was published by Distanz, Berlin in 2015.