Michele Roberts and Carol Robertson both live in London. They choose walking as a metaphor for their journey towards understanding the differences between writer and artist. Words and images walk towards one another. With London as their muse they set about mapping and comparing how each sees the city, hears it, imagines it; what each pays attention to and finds significant. A conversation between images and text emerges.

Roberts, a novelist and poet, has been describing London walks in her diary for thirty years, based on conversations with Londoners, writing down their words and stories. In this book, as a walker she becomes the invisible flaneuse, writing down street-talk and overheard conversations, mobile phone monologues, brief conversations with passers-by. She eavesdrops on dark stories and disarmingly innocent exchanges: looping from voice to voice, from place to place.

Robertson is an abstract painter. She selects walks more formally, planning her routes in advance and recording each walk with a camera. She walks with the purpose of looking and seeing and gathering all kinds of small details, most of which are jettisoned but some of which endure, later becoming encapsulated into paintings; freeze-frame equivalents of painted colour and light, intense optical rhythms of multi-coloured circles and stripes. Her photographs serve both as aide-mémoires for the watercolours
and as evocative visual footsteps; a strange kaleidoscope of images that catch her eye.

**Biographies**

**Sian Bonnell** is publisher of TRACE Editions and director of TRACE Gallery. Sian is a photographic artist and her work has been widely exhibited in this country and abroad. She is co-editor and publisher of *Dark City Light City* and will exhibit the originals at TRACE gallery. She will liaise on every stage of the project. TRACE is an artist-run, 'not for profit' initiative, committed to working with artists who make editions to accompany TRACE exhibitions, thus raising funds for other projects. The Edition comprises over 150 works by more than 70 artists.

**Michèle Roberts** is half French and half English. She has published novels, short stories, poems, and essays. Her novel *Daughters of the House* was short-listed for the Booker Prize and won the W.H.Smith Literary Award 1993. Her work has been translated into twelve languages. From 2002-2007 she was Professor of Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. Now she just writes.

**Carol Robertson** is an artist. Her paintings and prints are in private and public collections worldwide and she is represented by Flowers Gallery in the UK and USA. In 2005 she won first prize in the national Singer & Friedlander / Sunday Times Watercolour Competition and in the same year, published a book of watercolours with October Foundation in The Netherlands. She is a practice-based Research Fellow in Painting at Cardiff School of Art & Design, UWIC until 2008.


As Fellow in Painting at Cardiff School of Art & Design, University of Wales Institute Carol Robertson is supported by a CSAD Research Award.

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