

DR. GREG THOMAS

Writer and editor, modern art and literature

gregthomaswrites@gmail.com | gregthomas.online | @gregchthomas | 07534644632

Biography

Dr. Greg Thomas is an art and literature critic and editor based in Glasgow. He is currently a features writer for a number of art magazines including *Aesthetica* and *Scottish Art News*; his short film *Ian Hamilton Finlay: Concrete Poet* will appear on the BBC Scotland website in Winter 2020. His first monograph, *Border Blurs: Concrete Poetry in England and Scotland* (Liverpool University Press, 2019) was described by Nancy Perloff, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Collections at the Getty Research Institute, as “a genuinely inventive and valuable book for students and scholars of modernism, intermedia art, and British literature.” He has also published a range of academic articles and book chapters on concrete poetry

Current positions

Oct. 2020- Features and online writer, *Aesthetica*
May 2020- Features writer and reviewer, *Scottish Art News*
Jan. 2018- Senior editor, TheArtStory.org

Publications: Books

Border Blurs: Concrete Poetry in England and Scotland (Liverpool University Press: 2020)

Art and literature features (recent and selected)

“Altering the Blueprints.” Long read on contemporary radical architecture and three-dimensional design, *Aesthetica*, December 2020 (forthcoming)

"Hidden Depths: Edwin Morgan's Scrapbooks." On the 35-year scrapbook project of Scottish modernist poet Edwin Morgan, and influences on it from Surrealism to Cold War politics, *Scottish Art News*, October 2020.

"Towards Remembrance." Long read on the relationship between 1960s minimalist sculpture and contemporary memorial art and architecture, *Aesthetica*, October 2020

Review of Alex Balgiu and Mónica de la Torre (eds) *Women in Concrete Poetry 1959-1979*, *Aesthetica*, October 2020

"The Universal in the Particular: The Glasgow School at Cockburnspath." Surveying the work of Glasgow School at their artists' during the 1880s, *Scottish Art News*, September 2020

"John Furnival (1933-2020)." Obituary and biographical article on the text artist and visual poet John Furnival, *PN Review*, September 2020.

"Poetry at Large: The Poetic and Archival Practice of Paula Claire." Long-form review article assessing the life and work of poet-artist Paula Claire, *MAP*, August 2020

"Objective Events: Ian Hamilton Finlay, the Arts Councils, and the Battle as Art and Work." Essay-length article on Ian Hamilton Finlay's theatrical battles with the Scottish cultural establishment, *The Drouth*, May 2020

Academic articles (selected)

"Ian Hamilton Finlay, Albert Speer, and the Ideology of the Aesthetic at Little Sparta and Spandau." *Journal of Lusophone Studies* ("Concrete Aesthetics" issue; 2020)

"Concrete Poetry and Scottish Women's Writing: The Case of Veronica Forrest-Thomson." *Contemporary Women's Writing* 13.2 (2020)

“Sourd-Muet’: The Poetics of Non-Communication in Peter Manson’s ‘Sourdough Mutation’.” *Journal of British and Irish Innovative Poetry* 11.1 (2019)

“Cool Nothing: Dom Sylvester Houédard’s Coexistentialist Concrete Poetics.” *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews* 42-1-2 (2017)

“Three Books on the Scottish Sixties.” *Studies in Scottish Literature* 40.1 (2014)

“Eyearun: Bob Cobbing and Concrete Poetry.” *Journal of British and Irish Innovative Poetry* 4.2 (2012)

“From Edinburgh to Saturn: The Edwin Morgan Archive at the Scottish Poetry Library.” *Scottish Literary Review* 4.2 (2012)

Academic book chapters (selected)

“The Tower of Babel: Concrete Poetry and Architecture in Britain and Beyond.” *Spatial Perspectives: Essays on Literature and Architecture*, eds Nicole Sierra and Terri Mullholland (Peter Lang, 2015)

“Turning Their Fey Shoulders to the Wheel: Edwin Morgan’s Letters to Hamish Henderson” *The Hamish Henderson Papers: A Commemorative Collection of Essays*, ed Steve Byrne (Hamish Henderson Archive Trust, 2013)

Events and activities (recent and forthcoming)

Participant and curator, StAnza 2021: curating a digital exhibition of concrete poetry and participating in a Poetry Breakfast event on the theme of “Make It New”, March 2021

Presenter and writer, *Ian Hamilton Finlay: Concrete Poet*: a ten-minute film exploring the poetry garden of Ian Hamilton Finlay for BBC Scotland website, Winter 2020

Organiser, *Ian Hamilton Finlay: Little Fields: Long Horizons*, University of Edinburgh: a three-day symposium on Ian Hamilton Finlay, including an event at Little Sparta, July 2017

Organiser, *From Renaissance to Referendum*, Scottish Poetry Library: a free, public seminar series exploring culture and politics in relation to modern Scottish poetry, 2015-16

Academic appointments and qualifications

2014-17	British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow Department of English Literature, University of Edinburgh
2009-13	Ph.D. in English Literature School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures, University of Edinburgh

Referees

Stephen Bann, Emeritus Professor of History of Art, Bristol University
s.bann@bristol.ac.uk

Mr. Michael Zurakhinsky, Founder and Manager, The Art Story
mz4good@gmail.com

Dr. Robyn Marsack, Scottish Poetry Library Director 2000-16
robyn.marsack@gmail.com