

## A note on Chaingrass

Chaingrass is comprised of 30 visual poems made out of, and in response to 'chaingrass', a word from Bill Manhire's poem Falseweed (Egg Box Publishing, 2015).

The first 25 poems were made in 2014, the last 5 in 2016.

*Jazz Cigarette* recently published a PDF chapbook containing an earlier version of the chaingrass poems, together with an interview, both of which may be found here:

[http://www.jazzcig.com/catherinevidler\\_chaingrass.html](http://www.jazzcig.com/catherinevidler_chaingrass.html)

In 2016 I began to make 'patterns' from the poems. There are over 200 patterns in the series so far.

The process by which a pattern is made involves the selection of a fragment of text from a chaingrass poem using the 'snipping tool', followed by the application of a range of treatments to that fragment (using both Microsoft Word and Paint), including multiple pastings, rotations, duplications, re-sizings, resnippings of fragments of transformed text, re-positionings and re-arrangements.

Once I have made a pattern, I save it under a name which reflects its position in the sequence of patterns for that poem.

For each pattern, numerous asymmetrical collage-like works are produced prior to the final result. I have saved some of these pre-patterns, however their number is small (currently, there are 18 pre-patterns) primarily because it is disruptive to perform the actions required to save them while in the midst of pattern-making.

Stale Objects dePress recently published a large collection of chaingrass poems and patterns, structured such that each chaingrass poem is followed by the patterns which have emerged from it, in order of their creation. The pre-patterns appear at the end of the collection. The collection may be downloaded, or purchased as a print book, here:

<http://staleobjectsdepress.tumblr.com/post/150676801455/catherine-vidler-chaingrass>

A thought on asemic writing: I wonder about the intersection of the patterns with asemic writing. Some patterns are partially illegible, others completely illegible. All markings are nonetheless made out of the word 'chaingrass', or some combination of its component letters. In this way all the patterns seem essentially wordful (one-wordful) to me, regardless of the extent to which 'chaingrass' or its letters can be visually discerned.