

**Farlin Project
(2013)
(farlin: a communal container of herring)**



The Farlin Project was a joint initiative of Shetland Arts and Fife Contemporary Art & Craft, in collaboration with StAnza, Scotland's International Poetry Festival. Exhibitions and readings were held in St Andrews, Fife and at the Bonhago Gallery, Shetland.

The Brief: 8 poets and 8 makers from Shetland and Fife will exchange pieces of work. Each will then produce a piece (or pieces) in response to the piece they have received.

Each poet will have a partner who is a maker. Fife makers will partner Shetland poets and Shetland makers will partner Fife poets.

I was paired with Shetland maker Sarah Riley.

'Sarah Riley has experimented with latex and resin to make work responding to Joan Lennon's poems on the theme of hands. Drawings of seaweed evoke nerve endings in hands and people and their environment then links together. Sarah has also translated Joan's poems into the Burra dialect and printed them onto latex. Recorded readings by Joan and Sarah of both versions are available to listen to in the exhibition.

"It's all about ideas that bounce and ricochet ... A poem about old hands leads to the coloured latex hands of mother and child. A poem about fingers finds its way into fronds of seaweed. A poem about the hands of herring girls becomes a poem about herring which will be expressed by ... look and see!"

herring, harvested

precipitous, night-netted from the sea
and all their urgent choreography
left hugger-mugger in the hold

taken on to the dawn
to the gasping quays
to the grasp and knife

guts in the basket at the god's right hand
they are lightened into flight
from farlin to creel

till the tall one layers them
rosettes in the dark
and only the salt remains

