



from CUT FLOWERS

are or aren't they growing, gloomy
 paint flowers in terracotta
 pot or vase, becoming
 handle sky, skin, wall merge
 around small stakes, little earth
 continuity thick colour, mixed
 bunch so no, not growing
 cut

portraits look in, look out for
 tenderness the plane face
 particular & moving planet
 sensitive chaos, sudden
 attention took me by surprise
 quickening pulse of vegetation
 embryos like sea nymphs, eggs
 on wings

Slowly it dawns on me one needs to treat
 people more like plants, then they
 make more sense, be more serene
 dense strokes, cuttings as bugs u's& v's
 hum to the tune, stretch, somersault
 upturn free vertical-horizontal rhythms
 upright oblongs take textile/textural curve
 & kink

she wants a magic muse, they all did
 angel of anarchy, angel of
 mercy collagehead, chequer
 board profile, zig to zag & back
 look in. submit. repeat. look
 out. seduce. repeat. Plane face
 synthesis nautilus brain, old
 Oread

Harriet Tarlo is a poet and academic. Her poetry appears in numerous journals / zines / anthologies and four volumes by Shearsman Books. Her five artists' books with Judith Tucker are published by Wild Pansy Press. *Cut Flowers* is a series begun in 2016, the first volume of which appeared with Guillemot Press last year. Critical work is published in books and journals such as *Jacket*, *Critical Survey*, *Classical Review*, and the *Journal of Ecocriticism*. She is a Professor at Sheffield Hallam University, U.K.

