



**Can Serrat Check Point**  
*julio de 2018*  
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**Background:**

I am a multi-disciplinary artist and writer. The core focus of the residency was a poetry project.

**Residency aims:**

My project aim for the Can Serrat residency was to:

- edit existing poems and write new works as part of my first collection of prose poetry
- answer structural questions around narrative, chronology and section breaks
- decide how to incorporate image.

A visual art practice forms a significant part of my writing process and I identified a creative block to do with the separation of process from artefact. I have been writing and collating a series of poems using my Wordpress site, *Longing Letters*, as a workbook.

<https://longingletters.wordpress.com/> and found that I was unable to visualise the printed book as having a different look and feel to the website. The residency offered space to assess how the artefact would best be represented, instead of what I was habituated to; comfortable with.

**Outcomes:**

Despite setting clear, outcome-oriented goals, I was deeply curious to see how the relationship with the self is impacted by the intensity of a contained, concentrated, residency environment. I am eagerly anticipating and welcoming the potential for the experience to influence my style, content and writing process. This residency enabled me to experiment with writing while shaped by another sort of isolation – one present in the unique geography of El Bruc and Montserrat – and feedback from other arts practitioners. The poems capture glimpses of yearning and desire in different forms and over different periods in my experience.

### Discoveries/turning points:

- Physically laying out the pieces and viewing them as a linked narrative allowed me to see the texts anew. I saw the text hold its own and finally had closure on the images I had previously planned. (They now belong to a separate project and I will take them to the Cadiz residency in December).
- Emilia Phillips (poet resident) was generous in lending time and feedback on content and structure.

### Unexpected outcomes:

- VEU collaboration with Can Serrat, the Library of the El Bruc / City council and Carles Estrada  
*Traces*  
Voice piece – poetry 3.25 mins  
<https://soundcloud.com/can-serrat/isobel-hodges-traces>
- Music and poetry collaboration with Guilo Villar.  
*Lizard Girl.*  
First time collaboration with a musician! Insightful to witness stylistic choices in tempo, beat and key in line with narrative, rhyme scheme and theme.
- Opinion pieces x 3  
Articles incorporating:
  - Barcelona Pride 2018 and symbols of Catalunyan independence  
(Thank you to Roisin Dunnett and Erica X Eisen for feedback!)
  - Argentine president's announcement to increase military in national internal security, and charges against Spanish rapper, Valtonyc
  - Kader Attia exhibition at the Fundació Joan Miró. Winner of the 2018 Joan Miró Prize.

Evolution of work between presentations on Thursday 5 July and the writers' open mic in the Bodega Saturday 21 July is evident. Grateful for this opportunity!

Thanks, team.

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