

Oot

The word ‘exhibit’ comes from the Latin *exhibere* meaning ‘held out’. In Glasgow,¹ ‘held oot’.

Wedgie ghosts – wan af the North Sea, wan Pacific time-traveller – a generation-aged noo, but before time bypassit held oot their hands, unknowing, feeling.

In strangers’ palms we *make* freends – art school lassies, but nae oot af sharpened lead, nae oot af pigment or spectrum. Yet in hands held ootward we *make* them, acquaintances af fower dimensions. Af other claiths they become our ain clan – secrets an stories spun atween – fingertip kenning.

An af these yarns, what claith clues? What clews held oot to one another ayout continents, ocean exhibere? Af the tides an braith, in—oot.

Come *in*.

Kathryn Allan
Yorkshire, England, July 2023

¹ With love and thanks to Glaswegian and GSA ghost lassie Jane Wilson (noo Norbury) for the Glasgow patter. When Kathryn asked her for some Scots dialect, Jane, unbeknown to Kathryn, was far away in Mallorca.