

**There is nothing useful for you in this e-mail  
or: how to reach Puertos**

**(an excerpt of e-mails exchanged while working on the "Puertos" collaboration,  
by Rose Hunter, Dorothee Lang & Steve Wing)**

*it all started on a Thursday:*

**Von:** Rose [mailto:roseh400@yahoo.ca]  
**Gesendet:** Donnerstag, 23. Dezember 2010 06:11  
**An:** Dorothee  
**Betreff:** Re: AW: Facing

Hola,  
Just a quick hi - I have internet tonight here but where I am tomorrow I won't - just wanted to let you know because I have that image of yours to post, + also - I had some ideas for collaborations, on the bus. Kind of a trying journey. Or - the journey wasn't trying, more than is usual - stuff always goes wrong, right (!). But now I am in Puerto Vallarta.

**Von:** Dorothee [mailto:doro@blueprint21.de]  
**Gesendet:** Donnerstag, 23. Dezember 2010 10:46  
**An:** 'Rose'  
**Betreff:** collabs and revisits ~

hola!  
good to know that you arrived in Puerto Vallarta!

i like those lines: "a trying journey"  
and yes: "stuff always goes wrong, right (!)"

about a collab – what i thought yesterday is that maybe it would be interesting to have a larger collab - maybe with Steve, he is just back from a trip to Mexico, and then there's my trip to Lanzarote. we could just see how this might work: a collage of images with road pictures, combined with a collage / collaborate poem of road lines.

*The next day brought a first surprise shape already, when Rose responded with 2 first images, which zig-zagged over the Atlantic, reaching Dorothee, who forwarded them to Steve, with the rough idea of the collaboration:*

**December 24, 2010**

**From Dorothee:**

Yesterday was collab day: i came across a collaborative poetic resistance project earlier this month, and now put a feature together for s-Press yesterday: "The Enpipe line":

<http://dailypress.blogspot.com/2010/12/enpipe-line.html>

And I received a mail from Rose, we have mailed about the idea of a collab for the synergy issue, and it turns out, she had the same idea, to try a larger collab. Here's here mail, 2 images included:

\*\*\*\*\*

**From: Rose**

Cool! This was one of my ideas, a larger collab. :) I have a couple of road pics of my travels just now, through northern Mexico. And some related poetry. I attached a pic, not as a thing for this, but just as a - well, a pic. :)



Oh and here's another, of the bus station in Mazatlan - kind of a bizarre building!



**From Steve:** 05:24

This is an interesting start. And I had this idea that might contribute (*lines about dawn in the Puerto*).

*Very quickly we began seeing how the lines from each of us could fit together in interesting ways. Along with this, the idea expanded to combine our images too, to seek something deeper in the combinations. And soon, something began to emerge from these experimental splicings:*

**From Dorothee**

i am back from a snow walk to find this first merging of images. so beautiful. also, the landscape made me think of Lanzarote, so i added a landscape from there in a draft version – this isn't all fitting yet, but could be adjusted.

or they could connected on the other sides.  
i also attached the original photo, too, to play with.

and a thing i noticed:

puerto!

Rose is in Puerto Vallarta

i was in Puerto del Carmen when in Lanzarote

and Steve, in your mail with the poem, the lines:

too soon, well before dawn,  
the daily rhythm of the [puerto](#)

so maybe there could be the journey part with a landscape and reflections on being on the road

and then a part with a puerto collage + lines.

*One image that so clearly belonged right from the start was from Rose, the Mazatlan bus station. But it was not complete until combined with Dorothee's image of the lava fields of Lanzarote :*

**From Rose**

I am basically in love with this Mazatlan bus station + Lanzarote! Like a spaceship has landed - which is kind of what this bus station reminds me of anyway, only I didn't realize it until I saw it in this context. Gorgeously strange, this image. It could also be some sort of arachnoid, about to march off...

Que bueno!

*The emails exchanges continued:*

**December 25**

**From Rose**

Ha!

Someone else is on the internet on Christmas morning! I feel like I shouldn't be. (!) So now I feel better. The party next door is still going from last night.... I love the noise though. Dorothee, I completely overlooked your thing about ports.... Here are some ports that I thought I'd send you both, in case you wanted to use bits of them for something. Kind of raw material. If they aren't of any use, no worries, toss 'em of course.

There are two of Vallarta, and the other three are Manzanillo, south of here, and Mexico's largest port. Manzanillo is more of a working, industrial port. Anyway.

*Sometimes the collaboration seemed to go astray:*

**From Rose**

I mean, really, really, feel free to ignore all that (that I just sent). It's probably complete garbage and wrongheaded. Where's the "un-send" button?? I'm used to writing stuff and letting it sit for quite a while before letting anyone see it. In the interim I often / usually realize it's garbage. This is a new and slightly terrifying way of working. :) Plus I'm kind of overwrought and need to sleep, probably. I may be delirious. It's been a confusing day. Although I confuse easily. OK. I'm going now.

*But still we were inspired to continue working on it together.*

**From Dorothee 05:29**

Hola!

so i am just back from a snow walk, and thought of the ufo, then saw your mails - and now tried a mirror-version of it that puts it in the lava field like fallen from the sky.

and from there, i went and looked at your poems, and moving from “on one side ... on the other side” tried a 2-column layout, which might be a good format to flow from one verse to the next, forth and back, like cut-and-paste in a playful way that lets the different poems and verses and images “talk” to each other.

have a look:

feel free to copy & cut & paste & rearrange

**December 26**

**From Rose**

Oh this is way cool!

I see what you're doing with the ports? Like literal ports but also ports of call, on a road trip (eg) (?) , in this sections.

Here's my Spanish dictionary's definitions of puerto as well:

**Puerto**

**masculine noun**

**1. port** (de mar)

- llegar a puerto -> to come into port; to make it in the end (figurative)
- puerto deportivo -> marina
- puerto franco o libre -> free port
- puerto pesquero -> fishing port

**2. pass** (de montaña)

- subir/bajar un puerto -> to go up/down a mountain pass

**3. port** (computing)

- puerto paralelo/serie -> parallel/serial port

**4. haven** (refugio)

This number 4, haven, has me interested. I don't know in what way yet... hmmm.

I like your "daily rhythm of the puerto," Steve - I meant to say that in a previous email, very evocative, simple words I like it + also: half the world is sleeping \*\* or trying to

i feel like it could go a bit longer.

I tried with some of the lines from Steve's other mail, so - Interspersed with more images as you indicate. I picture it with quite a few images as it seems to me the more images there are the more free we are to keep fragmenting it, and adding and subtracting fragments. (?)

I also rearranged Steve's lines - just as an idea - hope that's not annoying and is not meant to indicate that's how it should be - just a possible direction I thought of. There should be more of them too, than I've chosen, for balance. Maybe a section intact would be better. Feel free to mess around with my words too :).

Phew. This is hard in a way. But interesting. It would be good to do in a room, with bits of paper all over the floor.

I hope, but don't know if this contributes anything. (!) Feel MOST free to ignore it, mostly or completely. :)

I was just having a bit of fun playing around. :)

### **From Dorothee**

wow. i like how this moves forward with such a strong pace, like a tide of verses and images.

i now tried something – feeling that the “ufo” connects from text with “condos on the hill”, which again connects with the poem “the bubbles”

and while working on that, i thought: maybe instead of creating a long page, there could be 3 pages – like passages of a journey.

### **From Rose**

I love what you're coming up with! The images are fabulous and I think the text of the first page (ufo :) works well - I agree, almost ready. It's funny, I thought the bubbles poem would fit somewhere, but had no idea how to incorporate it. :) Well done, you!

This is really interesting in terms of process I think. I've never collaborated with mixing words before - with our roller doors, after the idea which was collaborative (as I remember it) it was me doing the words basically, and Dorothee doing the images. This may be partly the reason I think the first, more "separated" one works better - or why I think that's the reason it works better at least. Hmm... :)

PS - just to confuse the issue completely, here's a poem (below) I have, also from that book, that I thought might possibly be good for that second page, and is more "puerto-related" than my one that's there atm, at least is "set" on the Malecon - and maybe carries on nicely from the first page, and I think might mix with Steve's words here as well....

I will try a collage poem of this poem and Steve's when I get back if you think it's a worthwhile idea.

Just more ideas! I've got to race off - be back. :)

PSS I love these Sonora + images, Steve. I will keep some to post on my Fotos blog - the ones that are not used here, and maybe a series of them, with that Sonoran desert as a constant. I love the stranded boats one in particular.... Unless this might be an interesting, images-only, separate piece-series for BPR.... Maybe in that layout of the first one Dorothee, that you sent - the rectangles pasted together and then proceeding along through the landscape maybe like a longer garage door walk....

OK. Just more ideas.

Way cool!

**From Dorothee:**

yes, it's fascinating, this triangle of synergy, images, lines!  
i keep returning to the "container/city" image. it's like 2 worlds merging. i now tried it on the page, i think it works like that, and doesn't really need more cleaning up for the web: and to make it easier to work with the texts we now have gathered, i put all on a page:

oh, and now browsing this, i think i have an idea for a poem merge - will go and try.

more later :)

**From Dorothee:**

i think the 2 poems in 2 columns is an interesting format from flow – it included the single poems , but also can be read zig-zag, with the 2 poems like 2 voices, with 2 different rhythms.

looking forward to what you are sending next :)

**From Rose:**

Wowzers!

I'm getting confused.

What happened to the ufo page? Or is that kind of finished and so off the table for the moment? Ha ha! I told you it didn't take much to confuse me!

**December 27:**

**From Dorothee:**

just a quick mail to let you know that i now put all “puerto” links up on top of the text page in [the green field](#):

:)

**From Steve:** Each of these 4 pages has something good about it. I want to look at the texts more today.

**From Rose:**

OK - cool. The green. Yes!

So I guess I'm saying I think there are three pieces here - one Puerto [with boats(?) + road (?)]; one refugio (ufo); and one container.

What do you think?

**From Rose:**

Hmm. I think this is teaching me about collaboration. I feel like this is a bit out of control. (!)

**From Dorothee:**

Yes the green :)

Rose: yes, collaborations are really coming with some out-of-control nature: there's this step into working with texts and images of others, rearranging them, and changing and merging. and there is the difficulty of keeping track of things, and communicating in triangles! it's a bit like taking a walk on the wild side, see where it leads while the ground keeps moving.

also, picking up on your notes and the boat photo, i now adjusted some pages slightly, see notes below:



**From Steve**

sorry, I feel like I have muddied the waters instead of clarifying.

**From Rose**

NOO!!! I see what you are doing here, and I like it!

I don't know how to combine it with what we have, is all. It's my fault! I feel all neurotic now. Ah, where dat therapist? :)

**December 28:**

**From Dorothee:**

i just looked through our yesterday mails, and the pages, and had to smile:

yes, Wowsers!

but so good, the places we reached.

how about we let things settle now for a bit, and return to the pages next year?

one thing that would be interesting to add is a page with notes – maybe we pull together some quotes from our e-mails on the process, we can just try and see how that would work out.

i really enjoyed this triangle ride :)

From Rose

Hello again - yes! Wowsers!

I really like that "two-layer" image on the Puertos piece now. :) :). To my mind the text of this one might work better arranged like the second version of containercity - with "my" :) (ha!) words on one side of the page, and Steve's on the other.

That's just my two cents though.

Yes - let's let it settle....

Me too - a very enjoyable ride / trip! Process notes sound interesting!

[Happy New Year](#) celebs!

*The project waited, then, until February. But in this dormant state it still seemed to be developing, because the next email revealed the almost completely finished version:*

February 12, 2011

**From:** Dorothee

hi Steve, hi Rose ~

yesterday i worked on collab submissions for blueprintreview, and then also revisited what we have for Puertos so far. and then had an idea. or rather: 2 ideas.

the first is: to connect the texts not through a footnote, but through passages in the poem, like a hypertext.

and the second: to try an approach that is more open. i really like the combined poems, but maybe we don't need to combine each poem – maybe the Puertos can be a combination of collab-poemse and single-author poems that together connect to a larger piece.

so that's what i tried now, and in unexpected ways, the pieces connected:

there are 5 pages now.

the first are the existing collab poems: Puertos + Refugio.

and the next 3 are single-author poems: "Scrubbing" by Rose, "Plane Plains" by Dorothee, and the morning poem by Steve

all pages are connected through links in the poems. when i reached the last page, i thought this might lead to the "about", but then i had an idea :)

see what you think – of course, this is just an idea of how this may be pieced together:

hola & viele Grüße!

Dorothee