

# WIDOWHOOD

**BRONWEN BUCKERIDGE**

**Published by Matt's Gallery London 2021**

*Where 27 pigeons raced from Matt's Gallery in London to their home lofts in Kent on a Sunday afternoon in September 2018.*

**Widowhood. Jealousy. The Darkness.** These are some of the closely held secrets and ritual practices used by pigeon racers to motivate their birds to fly faster on race day.

Taking its name from the racing strategy and Bronwen Buckeridge's 2018 exhibition at Matt's Gallery, *Widowhood* is an artist's book comprising an extended race report, which documents the passage of the pigeons sprinting home from the gallery in London to their lofts scattered around the Kent countryside.

In the form of a parallel text, *Widowhood* tracks the movements of one of the widowed pigeons against the banter of the pigeon men waiting at the lofts for the birds to return. Gathering together images from the marking up and release of the birds on race day, this artist's book is a poignant exploration of the private act of waiting, and a shared narrative of love, loss and longing.

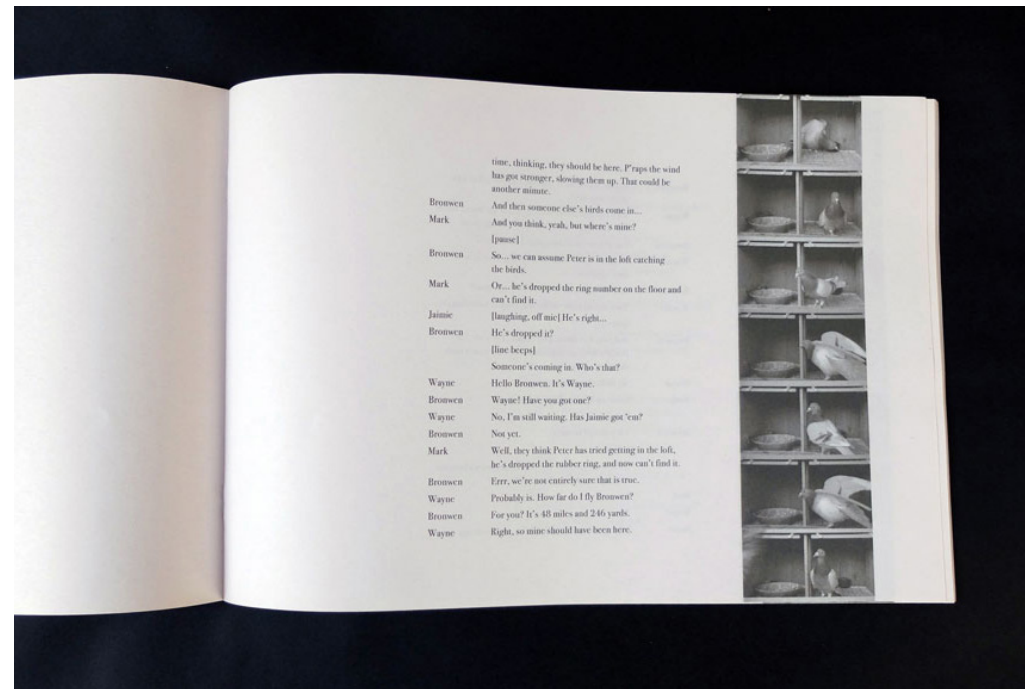
*Widowhood* was officially launched with an event at Matt's Gallery London in September 2022, and then at artist-led space D.U.S.T. in Penzance in December 2022. Both events comprised of a reading from the text and an ambient field recording of a pigeon loft.

## **Format**

Softback | Pages: 56 | Illustrations: 9 colour, 37 b&w | Dimensions: 190mm x 275mm  
Weight: 128g | Edition of 200 | ISBN: 978-1-912717-13-2

## **Keywords**

Pigeon racing | Ritual practices | Embodied knowledge | Dialogue | Wildness  
Acts of waiting | Magic | Non-human skill | Kinship | Field recording  
Rural communities







Clockwise images 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 courtesy Matt's Gallery London. Images 8, 9 courtesy Lucy Willow at D.U.S.T.