

Mobile Machinoeki

On the Road

Katie Etheridge, Phil Smith,  
Anoushka Athique

[www.mythogeography.com](http://www.mythogeography.com)

*(People may approach us – “what are you doing?” Or we may request help from them. Whenever a request comes to explain what we are doing...)*

**Phil:** We're performers who go walking to collect unusual information that we then use to make performances that encourage people to make their own exploratory walks.

**Katie:** At the moment we are looking for similar patterns in different places.

*(Katie shows the 'Bifurcation Map' and explains how she traced watercourses through people's front gardens in Chudleigh.)*

**Katie:** Can you help us? Are there things, signs, routes around here that are anything like this pattern?

*(If people help, but do not seem interested or comfortable we thank them and move on.*

*But if people are interested...)*

**Anoushka:** Can we show you some of the things that we've found?

*(We pile up the cases, Katie's gift case on the bottom, then Anoushka's and then Phil's case at the top, Phil opens the case to reveal the binoculars in straw with the lid decorated with many images of eyes.)*

**Phil:** On a walk on the Haldon Hills a huge owl settled on a branch and watched us. Since then we keep seeing owls... they have become a way of making our walks more intense.

*(Phil closes the case and lifts it up so that Anoushka can lift her case, Phil places his on the gift case and Anoushka places her case on top of Phil's. Anoushka opens her case. While this is going on, Katie offers the person a piece of string and runs it through their hand.)*

**Katie:** On one of our guided walks we asked people to follow a line of string, cotton and tape, running it through their hand, so they didn't just see the big things, but looked out for the fine textures as well.

**Anoushka:** *(Placing different shapes of place in the landscape of her case.)* We are not just explorers, we also think about how things can be different.

*(Katie and Anoushka then change the cases so that the gift case is on the top. Phil draws the shape of a case on the ground. Asking the person to stand inside the shape.)*

**Phil:** You don't need an actual case - you can carry ideas in your head. Number 1 idea: look for the extraordinary in the ordinary.

*(Katie and Anoushka hold up red/white sticks.)*

**Anoushka:** To remind us of this we carry these measuring sticks that are wonky.

*(Katie and Anoushka opening the gift case.)*

**Phil:** Number 2 idea: take time out to occasionally scuttle off sideways, away from your usual routes.

**Katie:** So here are some unusual maps to help you.

*(Katie handing maps from the gift case to the person. Crab Steps Map to all, Atmospheric Maps if the person is particularly engaged.)*

**Phil:** And we'd like to pass on a gift that has been specially made for us –

*(if clay)* this is to remind you of Idea Number 3 - to look for patterns. The gift shows patterns we've seen on our walks. It's been transformed from natural materials into its present form.

*(if iron)* this is to remind you of Idea Number 3 - to take unusual routes. It shows a junction where we took an unusual turn. It's been transformed from broken up cast iron Victorian drainpipe into a cast sculpture.

So it'll remind you of Idea Number 4: how a walk can change you.

*(Phil hands over the gift/s and closes the gift case.)*

**Anoushka:** Finally - on one walk we found a hut full of things. Including an old poster for a 1920s Fair where they danced the Furry Dance.

**Katie:** I taught one of our audiences the dance.

*(Dances a couple of couple of steps as Anoushka and Phil form an arch in front of the person – perhaps with red sticks – and Katie then leads the person through the arch.)*

**Katie:** We made an arch. And people danced through it. Which probably represents stepping into new worlds.

*(Phil takes cloth and wipes away the chalk.)*

**Phil:** Enjoy your walking!

**Anoushka:** We're journeying on now.

*(Give them bogus certificate. We say good bye and wander on.)*

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