

Inverse Clustering

This critical mind-shifting variation of clustering adds another discovery layer in tapping the pattern-seeking right hemisphere. Instead of starting out with a subject in the center of a Cluster, you start with a blank circle, free-associating. Many writers have said some variation of "How do I know what I want to write until I see what I say?" The writing, the meaning, the pattern emerges in the Do-ing. It invariably leads to surprise. Below are two Re-Creations (see Rico, Re-Creations: Inspiration from the Source) in which two writers Inverse-Clustered what they saw or felt when viewing the image below—until they discovered a direction, an idea, named the blank center, then wrote:

Body, Body
 for Bill Carter
 Belly beautiful --
 bellybutton
 umbilical to the body
 and the baby --
 bay of coves and
 curves and contours,
 curvaceous female body
 bathed in light and shadow,
 shadow and light,
 a fine fur of hair
 furling across a wind-bellied plain,
 the nibs of goose-pimpled skin
 dotting a moon-
 illumined, tactile landscape. --Gabriele Rico

WORMHOLE

(after Carter's "Dunes")
 Time traveler
 through infinity,
 through physicists' wormholes,
 secret passages under Einstein's pedestal
 across time and space.
 A mausoleum in the flesh
 of your belly,
 a shrine to your connection
 to your mother
 to her mother
 to her mother...
 I feel the tingle of time
 when we press together,
 shrine against shrine,
 sweetness alive, wet with desire
 and possibility,
 perhaps to create another time traveler,
 another rebel against the tyranny
 of right angles and clocks,
 dodging waves and particles
 to pass spirit
 against all odds
 through infinity
 -- Jack Mayer, M.D

Every Pencil

After W. S. Merwyn, Pulitzer Prize winner, 2009
 In a multitude of flashes on screens across the world—
 I see people, many people, writing with pencils.
 Unconsciously they move the very tool of wisdom,
 of the future, and of reality.
 they are awake in their world, but the tool they use awakens another world: words of fire,
 darkness, worn-out fears, imagination, and truth.

Who could have known such a simple tool could change the world forever?
Never, never, never, they all say to you.
But stop! Inside you are crouching,
ready to attack what they have said about you and your pencil.
Not just your pencil, but every pencil—every one! --Carolyn Snow

The Known and Unknown of the Written

After W. S. Merwyn, Pulitzer prize winner ,2009

What is not known can become known
as time—and a pencil—unravels the unknown. --Caroline Griffith

Writing is a communal act, not in any way as solitary as the Romantic period made the poets such as Keats, Coleridge, Goethe, out to be. In the same way ground-breaking scientists do not discover in a vacuum; as Newton stated, “If I have seen farther, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants.” And he did, in fact. All creation is, in a sense-Re-creation, a communal act among minds. Which leads us to “metaphorming.”