

Marion Coutts

Writer - Non-fiction

Marion Coutts is an artist and writer. She works in sculpture, film and video and has exhibited widely, nationally and internationally. In 2003-4 she was the Kettle's Yard Fellow at St John's College, Cambridge, and previous residencies include Tate Liverpool and The British School at Rome. Marion was married to the art critic Tom Lubbock who died in 2011 and she wrote the introduction to his memoir *Until Further Notice, I am Alive*, published by Granta in 2012.



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Publications

Non-Fiction

Publication Details	Notes
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THE ICEBERG

2014

Atlantic Books (UK),
Grove Atlantic (US),
Dioptrias (Spain),
Mobius (Taiwan)

In 2008 the art critic Tom Lubbock was diagnosed with a brain tumour.

He died early in 2011.

Marion Coutts was his wife.

The Iceberg is Marion Coutts' response to her husband's diagnosis, illness and death. The tumour was located in the area controlling speech and language and would eventually rob him of the ability to speak. In short bursts of beautiful, textured prose, Coutts uses words as a weapon against loss.

The Iceberg is an exploration of the impact of death in real time, a sustained act of looking that only ends when life does. It gives an account of a small family unit under assault, and the inventiveness by which they tried to stay together. It charts the deterioration of Tom's speech even as it records the developing language of his child. It navigates with great power the journey from home to hospital to hospice.

This is a highly visual book, written by a visual artist. Written with great narrative force, it is candid and illuminating. Fury, selfishness, grief, indignity, impotence, all are examined and brought to light. Yet out of this comes a rare story about belonging. It speaks of an 'adventure of being and dying'. The book becomes a celebration, of friends, art, work, happiness, love and language.
