

BUT KNOTS

from an ongoing collaboration

But not just hey this is site-specific
But not just here we are, let's write about it
but not all small town
but not all global
but not all moving between small town and global at the same time
but not all long lists of lost things, like plants and animals
but not all lamenting
but not all loving
but not all aren't we cute
but not all they really do have feelings
but not all time to change the subject
but not all good cop bad cop
but not all mompo bachelorpo
but not all coteriepo
but not all gossipoetix
but not all lists like this one
but not all statistics that make you feel sad
but not not more numbers trouble
but not just hey keep your clothes on
but not here's where I make you laugh
but not more self-deprecation
but not more self-laceration
but not more self-flagellation
but not more self-cancellation
but not more self-appropriation
but not more mis-appropriation
but not just you do that I do this
but not just butting heads
but not just building walls to butt heads against
but not just your kid my dogs
but not just my dog hair your breast-milk
but not just my dudes your ladies
but not just my problems your problems
but not just collaboration as partner-swapping
but not just collaboration as shared-spit
but not just collaboration as more avoiding eye contact
but not just collaboration as do we have to call it friendship
but not just go do your homework
but not just shop-talk

but not pious
but not obvious
but not just about ourselves
but not just snarky know-betterisms
but not more socialist one-liners
but not scolding
but not just lyric
but not 'musical'
but not just about this
but not just this
but not this
but not about how nothing works
but not about guilt
but not just about shame
but not just what it's not
but not apologias
but not playing it safe
but not risk-free
but not collaboration-as-compromise
but not collaboration-as-melding-into-neutral-voice/tone
but not just your thing
but not just my thing
but not playing out things you'd never do 'on yr own'
but not just playtime
but not just playing off each others' foibles
but not just autobiography again
but not a lovefest
but not 'that kind of' documentary poetics
but not 'that kind of' political poetry
but not 'that kind of' conceptualism
but not 'that kind of' formalism
but not 'that kind of' proceduralism
but not 'that kind of' place-based poetics
but not 'that kind of' eco-poetics
but not assignments without content
but not assignments without context
but not ideas just to produce text
but not forms for their own sake
but not just hey it might be fun to...
but not just the 'hey that's kinda interesting'
but not just back and forth
but not shielding each other's feelings
but not shying away from discomfort
but not just lists of what not
but not avoiding the tough questions
but not knots

but not not but
but not grad school vowels
but not merely child's play
but not the marxist cash bar again
but not more communist puns
but not not nut-butter
but not making sure the shirt matches the chalk
but not just playing it for laughs
but not more search engine stage management
but not more managerial poetics
but not more here are the catch-phrases that prove we're 'political'
but not more West Coast / East Coast
but not more emails
but not more sexless inquiry
but not more neutered wordplay
but not more nervous laughter
but not for 'them'
but not for ourselves
but not all slightly sarcastic as a way to avoid anyone saying anything really
but not all google
but not all googly-eyes
but not all fucked up and stuttering
but not all phrasal economy
but not all sentenced out
but not all did I mention I'm white
but not all I'm sorry
but not all look at the books I've read
but not all here's where I mention capital
but not all forgive me, forgive me
but not all bend over, bend over
but not all you really like me, you really do
but not all you really hate me, you really do
but not all picking the bugs off of each other's scalp
but not all fuck all
but not all going out after the reading?
but not all working working working working
but not all sure, whatever
but not all this, as if it's just words to put in each other's mouths
but not all this, as if it's just words to fill up time
but not all this, as if it's just words
but not all this, as if it's just
but not all this, as if
but not all this
but not all
but not
but