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## AN EKPHRASTIC POEM FOR PHIONA STANLEY: CRAFTING A DIY CAMPERVAN AND CRAFTING EMBODIED, GENDERED IDENTITY PERFORMANCES IN A HYPER-MASCULINE ENVIRONMENT

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**James Burford** calls the Canterbury region in Aotearoa New Zealand home. He is currently a Lecturer in the Graduate Research School at La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia. Prior to his employment at La Trobe, James worked as a Lecturer in the Faculty of Learning Sciences and Education at Thammasat University in Thailand, as well as in the community sector as a diversity educator and youthworker. James' research field is higher education. His scholarly attachments range from academic writing and doctoral education, to conferences and academic mobilities. Alongside Emily Henderson, James edits the academic blog [Conference Inference](#).

**Abstract:** The following is an ekphrastic review of Phiona Stanley's article in this issue: Crafting a DIY Campervan and Crafting Embodied, Gendered Identity Performances in a Hyper-masculine Environment.

**Keywords:** review; ekphrastic poem

James wrote the following poem in fits and starts over several weeks. He began by reading Phiona Stanley's article (2019) and sitting with the images she shared. He started composing the poem by circling words in Phiona's text and then transferred these words to a document to work with. Late one night he finally committed to a poem titled "Trying to do."

## Trying to do

What are you trying to do?  
Is not a question we often ask about gender  
Because the doings of gender are so carefully scripted  
And not getting it 'right'  
Risks so much

You have to be  
Tough as liquid nails  
To live wonky

Phiona reminds us that we are  
Fragile and lumbering things  
Creatures-becoming  
DIY projects

Some do or don't  
Hanker  
To be in the muck of change  
Grubby and greasy  
On the edge of knowing  
Fitting in  
Fitting out

## REFERENCES

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Stanley, P. (2019). Crafting a DIY campervan and crafting embodied, gendered identity performances in a hyper-masculine environment. *Art/Research International: A Transdisciplinary Journal* 4(1), 351-381.