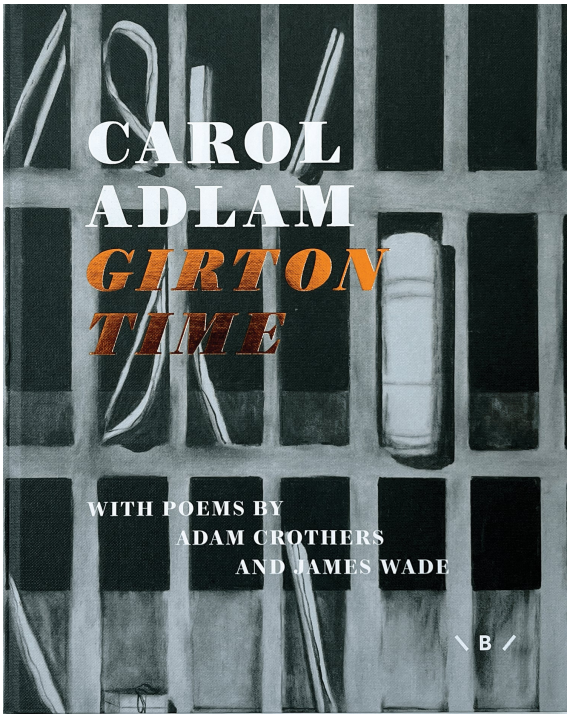
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Girton Time

with Poems by Adam Crothers and James Wade

By (artist) Carol Adlam

Contributions by Adam Crothers

Contributions by James Wade

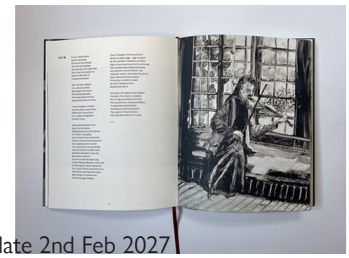
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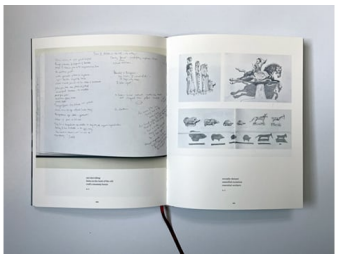
- Founded in 1869, Girton College was Cambridge's first residential college for women
- Artist Carol Adlam wanders its corridors, stairwells, libraries and forgotten corners, capturing traces of college life in rapid drawings, alongside poems by Adam Crothers and James Wade

Girton College – founded in 1869 as the first residential college for women at the University of Cambridge. It is within this remarkable setting that artist Carol Adlam spent a year immersing herself in the rhythms, architecture and hidden spaces of the College. Moving through corridors, stairwells, libraries, laboratories, archives, wheat fields and forgotten corners, Adlam recorded the life of the College through rapid drawing techniques using charcoal, printmaking and chalk on blackboard. Her attention settles not on grand narratives but on fleeting encounters, overlooked details and the traces left by generations of students, scholars and staff, revealing Girton as a place where past and present continually intersect.

Responding to both the pioneering feminist history of the College and its vibrant contemporary community, Adlam's drawings offer an intimate portrait of an institution shaped by curiosity, independence and discovery. Poems by Adam Crothers and James Wade accompany the artwork, echoing, questioning and reimagining its themes. Together, words and images explore daily time and deep time, creating a richly layered portrait of one of Cambridge's most significant and forward-thinking colleges.

Carol Adlam has written and illustrated for *The Guardian, The United Nations,* the *Natural History Museum, the National Army Museum, Delayed Gratification: The Slow Journalism Magazine,* The National Archives, among many others. Her graphic books include: *The Russian Detective* (Jonathan Cape / Penguin Books 2024), *Girton Time* (Beam Editions, 2024), *Thinking Room* (Djanogly Gallery, 2017; World Illustration Awards Winner 2018), and with Helen Cross, *Ministry of Women* (2016; WIA Shortlisted 2016), *Suzanne's Story* (WIA Shortlisted 2015), *The New Wipers Times* (2015). She also writes graphic novel scripts, short stories, and audio scripts, and has published academic and other non-fiction as a visual and literary historian. She is Associate Professor of Illustration in the Nottingham School of Art and Design, Nottingham Trent University, and she teaches creative writing at the University of Cambridge.







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