

Observers' Walks  
Ruth Ewan & Astrid Johnston  
*Memorialmania*

COLLECTIVE

Narrated by Tam Dean Burn & Ruth Milne  
54 minutes

For the first in the series of Observers' Walks, Ruth Ewan and Astrid Johnston have created an audio guide, taking in the monuments and geology of Edinburgh's Calton Hill. Centering around the Political Martyrs' Monument, this tour reveals the stories behind this glaciated landscape and the rocks we have placed upon it, inviting us to re-engage with the rich diversity of history on Calton Hill.

Ruth Ewan and Astrid Johnston met at Edinburgh College of Art in 2000. Upon graduation, as co-recipients of a travel scholarship, they travelled to Iceland where they produced a collaborative work. In 2003 they were part of *Win Together, Lose Together, Play Together, Stay Together* - a self-organised exhibition in a former betting shop in Edinburgh's Tollcross, which other members developed into the Embassy Gallery. In 2008 they collaborated on a special menu inspired by the four humours for *Plato's Table*, a one day symposium organised by Collective. Ewan's project *We Could Have Been Anything we Wanted to Be*, the installment of ten decimal clocks for the Folkestone Triennial in 2011, was informed by Johnston's research into the system of time adopted briefly during the French Revolution.

This walk provides a practical and engaging guide to the monuments of Calton Hill. The walk is divided into 8 tracks, please use the map inside this booklet to help you find the start location for each location however the audio guide will also give directions.

A series of three limited edition prints have been created by Ruth Ewan - for sale through Collective for a limited time.

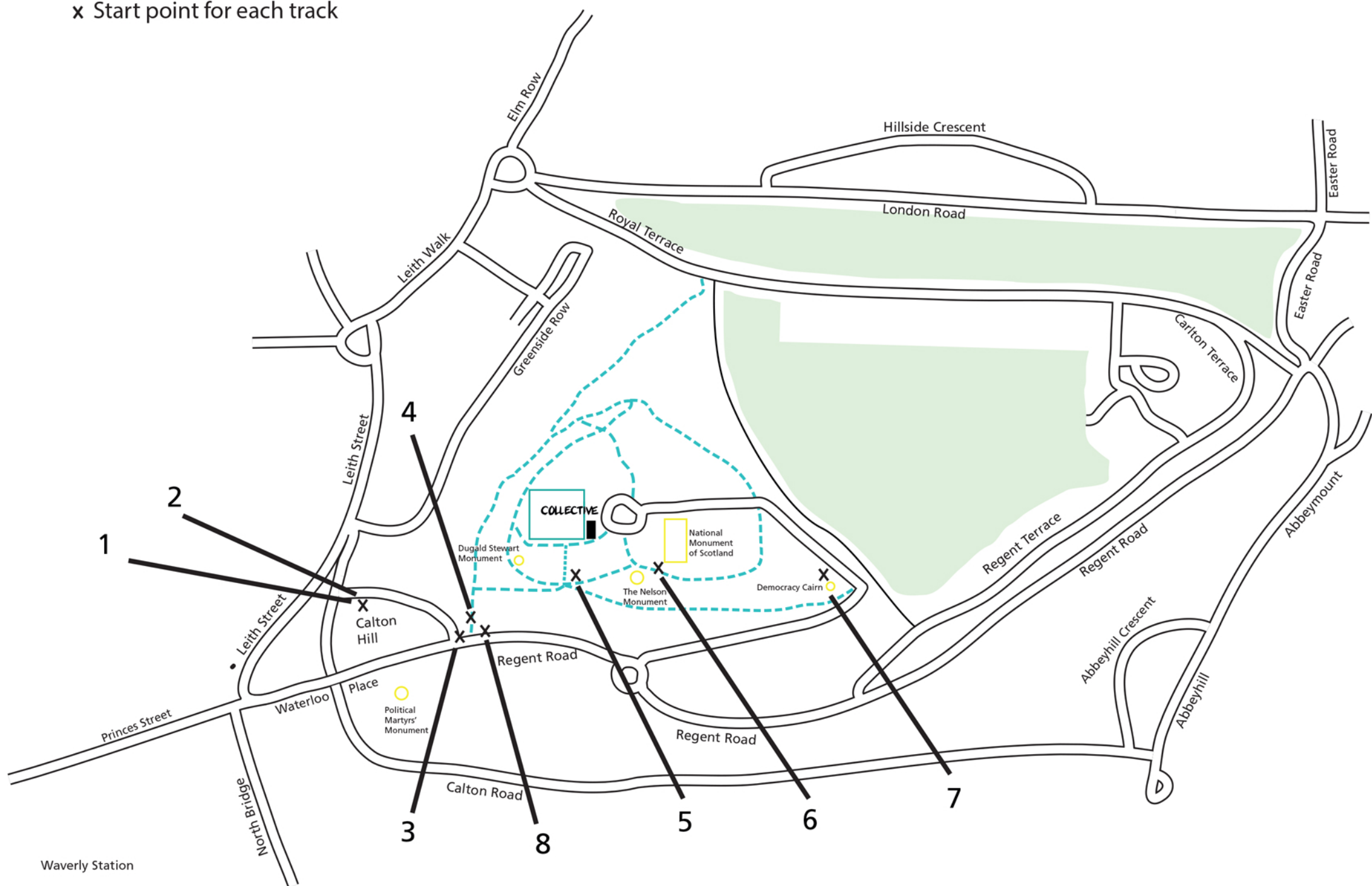
Astrid Johnston works as a designer and researcher in Edinburgh.

Ruth Ewan is an artist based in London. Her collaborative and sometimes participatory projects are grounded in the historical context in which they are produced, often inviting others to collaborate in a process. Her work has been shown in venues including Tate Britain London, ICA London, New Museum New York, CAAC Seville and Kunsthall Charlottenborg Copenhagen.

In association with Outset, Scotland.



x Start point for each track



**Collective** is a contemporary, visual arts organisation, established in 1984 to support a community of local artists. Collective now delivers an exciting and ambitious programme of new exhibitions, new commissions and projects. Collective produces major new work by Scotland based and international artists who are at a pivotal stage in their development.

Over the next two years, Collective will be making the City Observatory complex its new home, opening the whole site to the public for the first time. This will bring contemporary visual art into the iconic heart of Edinburgh.

Calton Hill's histories of stargazing and intellectual endeavor make it an inspiring location for forward thinking contemporary artists. It will provide reflection on the past, present and importantly the future through cultural exchange or dialogue. We plan to conserve the important aspects of the past, but use the spirit of innovation to guide us in the future. The programme will re-interpret this significant building to develop new research.

**Outset Scotland** brings private individuals and corporate partners together to fund contemporary art activity in Scotland. It supports selected artists' commissions, exhibitions and education programmes and seeks to augment Scotland's public collections of contemporary art with gifted artworks. Kirstie Skinner of Outset Scotland said: "Outset Scotland is thrilled to support Collective's vision and ambition in moving to Calton Hill. In funding the Observers' Walks commissions, we are delighted that artists Ruth Ewan and Astrid Johnston, Bedwyr Williams and Tris Vonna Michell will make new bodies of work for this special location, and we look forward to sharing our excitement with a wide audience."