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FOCUS ON FARMERS

ART AND HILL FARMING

Jennie Hayes (Ed.)

'A celebration and recognition of the contribution made by hill farmers to our culture and to our landscape.'

Kate Ashbrook

Focus on Farmers: Art and Hill Farming is a multi-layered exploration of contemporary rural life in Devon. The book's essays, interviews, poems, stories, images and photographs invite readers to engage in a lively discussion of the critical debates around hill farming today. Many of the images are reproductions of artworks created by Aune Head Arts' commissioned artists who, in 2003, were resident on four hill farms – three on Dartmoor and one on Exmoor.

With a foreword by Professor Ian Mercer CBE, the book includes essays by one of America's most influential writers on arts and culture, Lucy Lippard; Devon-based writer and photographer, Jennie Hayes; writer, theatre-maker and explorer of the already discovered, Phil Smith; archaeologist, National Trust trustee and Head of Culture for Devon County Council, Simon Timms and Anthony Gibson, Director of Communications of the National Farmers Union.

"To interpret farmers and all their works well to the rest of society, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, is critical to their survival and to the survival of the British countryside – in all its wonderful variety. In that sense alone any attempt at the necessary interpretation is to be commended. I commend this book to you for that, if for no other reason. Its conversations, its poetry, its essays and its images all help the willing to learn more, maybe the casual to observe more clearly for themselves and help all who pick it up to just begin to understand what makes a farmer tick".

Ian Mercer CBE



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