Map of Influences

Brenda Hillman lays out her influences very clearly in the poem “Her Map May Change Its Arrows.”

Her Map Might Change Its Arrows

chant & oral spells
druid, shamanic

migrational
early alphabets, signs
enchancements came
non-human sounds

sounds of the
Bible Hebrew & Aramaic

occult
magic & pagan
texts (esoterica)

medieval literatures
18th century

(rage for order)
Wait

European Romanticism
symbolism

English + American → Blake (Baudelaire)
+ Emily

(Latin American)
surrealism/s (marginal)

Modernisms
& what followed
postmodernisms

still modern odd cubist
after all personal documentary & actions &
these years political informational forms
with women’s
ecological justice & love poetry
spiritual poetry
Yes, it’s festooned with a great number of arrows, a few asterisks and very little punctuation, but more importantly it’s loaded with those writers and movements in literature and culture that have had a say in what makes Brenda the poet she is at this time, the time of *In A Few Minutes Before Later*.

Such maps or charts are not uncommon. A quick search yields:

---

**The Original Influences...**

- **Rock**
- **Folk**
- **Classical**
- **Jazz**
- **Avante Garde**

---

**Psychedelic Rock**

- Pink Floyd
- Soft Machine
- Arthur Brown

---

**Progressive Rock**

- Moody Blues
- King Crimson
- The Nice
- Procol Harum

---

**Art Rock**

- Yes
- Genesis
- ELP
- King Crimson

---

**Symphonic Progressive Rock**

- Yes
- Genesis
- ELP
- King Crimson

---

**Canterbury**

- Soft Machine
- Caravan
- Gentle Giant

---

**Space Rock**

- Pink Floyd
- Hawklind
- Gong

---

**Early 70s**

- Be Bop Deluxe
- Roxy Music
- 10cc
- City Boy
- Supertramp

---

**Early 80s**

- Yes
- Genesis
- ELP
- King Crimson

---

**Late 80s**

- Neo-Prog
- Marillion
- IQ
- Pallas
- Solimport
- Pendragon
- Twelfth Night

---

**Prog Metal**

- Dream Theater
- Angua
- Ten Ton Tides
- Epica

---

**90s**

- Minimum Vital
- Halloween
- Angler
- Sinkende
- Misunderstood
- Kebab
- Providence
- Arenova
- Spock’s Beard
- Legen De Mjöll
- Deus Ex Machina
- D.F.A.
- The Flower Kings

---

© Jerry Lucky "The Progressive Rock Files" 1998

---

And
“If you have to ask, you’ll never know.”
-Louis Armstrong
And

Your task is to create your own map of influences. Arrows are optional, but it is interesting to see the movement, the connections between modes, or influences and hopefully reveal some of your personal mythology to yourself. If you go back to Robert Duncan’s notion from the introduction to *Bending The Bow*: “…every present activity in the poem redistributes future as well as past events.” How to 1) chart your own influences and 2) go back in time and realize that some influences are now more apropos to the person (writer) you are now, or the person (writer) you’d like to be in the future. This does not mean wealth or status or publishing credits other other “poetry booty” as the late Kent Johnson would have put it, but more as a depth of being. Try not to leave anything out. If you were raised on the Bible, put it in there. But maybe not long after that comes Bugs
Bunny or Groucho Marx and then maybe Wanda Coleman’s *American Sonnets*. All influences are valid. Charting it like Brenda may take some Word doc skills, but see what you can do. Extra points if you can read your chart aloud like Brenda did here:

[Image of chart]

https://youtu.be/LMKUK4w7hk

peN
5-MAR-2023
Harrison Hot Springs, BC

Works Cited

Brenda Hillman “Her Map Might Change Its Arrows” from *In a Few Minutes Before Later*

https://i.pinimg.com/originals/5b/12/87/5b1287b40126b577214709a21fe1f59f.gif


https://o.quizlet.com/P-zOTbAC7D1Zr4jD6ln0yQ_b.jpg