

Press Release

For Immediate Release

# Small Publishers Fair

24th and 25th October:

London - Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1R 4RL

Free admission to Fair and all events, open 11.00am -7.00pm

Full details at [www.rgap.co.uk/spf.php](http://www.rgap.co.uk/spf.php)

## “The book as art form....”

the international event in London celebrating books by contemporary artists, poets, writers, composers, book designers, and their publishers

This year the Fair will be featuring more publishers than ever before -over fifty - with a truly international field - two publishers from New York - Cuneiform Press and Vanitas and Libellum books; Chax press from Tucson, Arizona; Perro Verlag from Vancouver; Antic-Ham of Korea; and with publishers and presses from France, the Netherlands, Germany, Ireland, Belgium, and throughout the UK.

The Small Publishers Fair has announced this year's readings and events programme which takes place alongside the Fair. In a varied schedule, highlights include readings from Vincent Katz and Kyle Schlesinger, both poets, editors and artist-publishers from New York; and the launch of the much acclaimed Reality Street Editions' Book of Sonnets, to be introduced by its editor Jeff Hilson. Bill Griffiths' The Lion Man and Others will be launched by readers from Veer Books, and for West House books, David Annwn will launch his largest collection to date, 'Bela Fawr's Cabaret'.

The Fair brings together international artists, poets, writers, composers, book designers and publishers to celebrate contemporary artist publishing. Now in its 7th year, the Fair has attracted widespread interest, and praise for the quality of the events, and the immense variety of work on display.

More than 50 publishers are showing work, and all the books and editions are for sale, - an opportunity to buy work at an affordable price. With free admission, there's something for everyone - from top class writing, beautifully printed artists' editions, multiples, and zines, to inexpensive pamphlets and artists cards. Several young artists' collectives will be showing their work for the first time.

Organiser Martin Rogers, of RGAP, said

'The Fair has established itself as the national forum for the many small presses and independent publishers actively promoting contemporary artists' work both in the UK and abroad. There will be a huge range of books and editions on display, and a number of these are special, and may not find their way into conventional bookshops, or sit on regular bookshelves.'

Programme details:-

**Friday 24th October**

Fair open 11.00 am - 7.00pm

6.00pm Press Preview with drinks

**Saturday 25th October**

Fair open 11.00 am - 7.00pm

1.00 - 6.00pm Performances, readings and booklaunches in the Brockway Room at the Conway Hall as follows:

1.00

'Playing with Words'

Booklaunch and performances by David Toop, Ansuman Biswas, Brown Sierra, and Nye Parry

1.30

Royal Holloway MA Poetic Practice:

Readings by Anna McKerrow and Becky Cremin

2.00

Cluster Arts Magazine - Act Two

Selected performances and readings

2.30

Kyle Schlesinger, Cuneiform Press (Brooklyn, NY)

3.00

Launch: 'The Reality Street Book of Sonnets' introduced by Jeff Hilson

4.00

Vincent Katz reads 'Barge',

a collaboration with Jim Dine

4.30

West House

David Annwn and Martin Corless-Smith

5.00

Les Coleman

The Cat Talked in Latin with Greek

5.30

Veer Books launch Bill Griffiths'

'The Lion Man' and readings by

Sean Bonney, Johan de Wit and others

Admission free to all events

Check [www.rgap.co.uk](http://www.rgap.co.uk) for any updates

## List of participating publishers:-

Altazimuth Press  
Antic-Ham  
Ian Barraclough  
Alexandre Bettler  
Black and White Cat Press  
Boekie Woekie  
The Bookroom / Emmanuelle Waeckerlé  
Brown Sierra / Noisegate  
Tracey Bush  
Cabanon Press  
CB Editions  
Chax Press  
The Chinchilla  
Cluster Arts Magazine  
Coracle  
Cuneiform Press  
John Dilnot  
Estepa Editions  
European School of Visual Arts / EESI  
Everyday Joy  
Experimental Letterpress Workshop  
FOLD  
Peter Foolen Editions  
Stephen Fowler  
Gefn Press  
Tony Hayward  
In House Publishing  
Xtina Lamb  
Libellum Books / Vanitas magazine  
Lotte Little / Per se Press  
Lucky Dip  
Mailworks@Bruxelles  
Morning Star Publications  
Moschatel Press  
New Arcadian Press  
Ottobooks  
Perro Verlag  
Pick & Mix Press  
Poetic Practice at Royal Holloway  
Pupa Press  
Reality Street Editions  
Redfoxxpress  
Red Sphinx  
RGAP  
Road Books  
Colin Sackett  
Shytstem & Measure by Measure  
Jacqueline Thomas Books  
Tufnell Art Press  
Veer Books  
West House Books  
Wotadot  
Wild Hawthorn Press; the Archive of Ian Hamilton Finlay  
Felix Zakar

## Notes for editors:-

Images are available

For more information contact Martin Rogers

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## Some further notes on the speakers:

**Kyle Schlesinger** is director of Cuneiform Press, based in Brooklyn, NY and is this year's guest publisher at the Small Publishers Fair. Kyle publishes books with artists, poets and writers, and lectures on topics related to poetics, visual communication, and artists' books. Recent books of his poetry include 'The Pink' and 'Hello Helicopter'.

He edits the acclaimed publication 'Mimeo Mimeo', a forum for critical and cultural perspectives on the Mimeo Revolution, Artists' Books and the Literary Fine Press

[www.cuneiformpress.com](http://www.cuneiformpress.com)

**Jeff Hilson** is a poet whose recent publication 'Stretchers' was published by Reality Street Editions, in 2006. He is currently writing a prose poem sequence on British birds, and has edited the anthology Book of Sonnets published by Reality Street in 2008 - a book which "delves more thoroughly than ever before into the myriad ways poets have stretched, deconstructed and re-composed the venerable form: here we have free-verse sonnets, prose sonnets, offbeat takes on the sonnet tradition, and even visual and concrete sonnets." [www.realitystreet.co.uk](http://www.realitystreet.co.uk)

**Vincent Katz** is a poet, translator, art critic, editor, and curator living in New York. He is the author of nine books of poetry, including 'Cabal of Zealots' (1988, Hanuman Books), 'Understanding Objects' (2000, Hard Press), and 'Rapid Departures' (2005, Ateliê Editorial). He won the 2005 National Translation Award, given by the American Literary Translators Association, for his book of translations from Latin, 'The Complete Elegies of Sextus Propertius' (2004, Princeton University Press). He was awarded a Rome Prize Fellowship in Literature at the American Academy in Rome for 2001-2002. He had a one-month residency at the American Academy in Berlin in Spring, 2006. Katz writes frequently on contemporary art and has published essays on the work of Francesco Clemente, Jim Dine, Kiki Smith, Philip Taaffe, and Cy Twombly. He is the editor of the poetry and arts journal VANITAS and of Libellum books. [www.vincentkatz.com](http://www.vincentkatz.com) [www.vanitasmagazine.com](http://www.vanitasmagazine.com)

**David Annwn** is a poet and critic who lives in Wakefield, Yorkshire. He lectures for the Open University in Manchester. He is a recipient of the Cardiff International Poetry Award and a Ferguson Centre award for African and Asian Studies. Most recent amongst his books are the collaborations: 'It Means Nothing To Me' (with Geraldine Monk), and 'The Last Hunting of the Lizopard' (with Alan Halsey.) At the Fair, David Annwn will be launching his largest collection to date, 'Bela Fawr's Cabaret'. [www.westhousebooks.co.uk](http://www.westhousebooks.co.uk)

**Martin Corless-Smith** is an English poet who has lived for many years in the USA and now teaches at Boise State University. West House published his collection Complete Travels in 2000. His recent books 'Nota' and 'Swallows' have appeared from the New York publisher Fence. In his poems 'there are many voices, heard and misheard in fragments fused in startling array'.

**Veer Books** will stage a multi-reader launch of **Bill Griffiths'** 'The Lion Man & others'. With books such as 'Cycles and War W/ Windsor' Griffiths opened new ground in English poetry in the 1970s and his prodigiously inventive work continued to appear from presses large and small for the next 30 years. He assembled this generous selection of his later poetry shortly before his death in September 2007. Veer will also launch books by Johan de Wit, Stephen Mooney and

Piers Hugill, as well as Sean Bonney's 'Baudelaire in English', in which the French poet trawls the meaner streets of postBlair London tapping out corrosive translations on his derelict typewriter: Bonney makes all previous attempts at 'Baudelaire in English' seem merely polite.

**Les Coleman** is a London based artist who states "My own preference within publishing is the production of items, however ephemeral, where aesthetics are controlled by economics - making content available at low cost. The printing and binding of lavish books in limited quantities and sold primarily to collectors and libraries is not a concern of mine. In many ways I see it as a disservice to publishing where exclusivity operates to deny my own wish to proliferate ideas."

Coleman has exhibited widely, published fourteen books and numerous ephemeral items, and has contributed material to journals and magazines.

"In the main I use books as repositories for ideas often when there is a theme involved, as with my collections of aphorisms 'Unthoughts' (Ink Sculptors, 1992), 'Unthinking' (Littlewood Arc, 1993) and 'Unthunk' (Errata, 2002)." Coleman's most recent book entitled 'Dialogue' brings together, for the first time, over 60 of his sculptural works, and awaits publication in 2008/9.

**Cluster** is an annual interdisciplinary arts magazine published by **Ana Cavic & Reneé O'Drobinak**, aka the 'ladies of the press', investigating notions of performance and performativity in print. "We cluster participants from various fields of the arts to take part in a process based publication that treats the page as a primary space for live art. Artists, writers, performers, architects and other creative minds are invited to contribute original works in various stages of progress that engage specifically with the printed form, each page operating as its own site." [www.clustermagazine.co.uk](http://www.clustermagazine.co.uk)

#### **MA Poetic Practice at Royal Holloway**

**Anna McKerrow** is interested in exploring the possibilities of poetic language in relationship to cybertheory as well as visual artists using text in their work.

**Becky Cremin's** site is language. Her practice is research. She works in process and draws on traditions of live art, fluxus, performance writing and site specific work to construct a hybridity of practice which uses language as an object to expose, to investigate, to locate.

Both are 2008 postgraduates of Royal Holloway Poetic Practice MA.

'**Playing with Words**' is a new anthology of works from over forty leading contemporary sound artists and composers who use words, particularly spoken words, as their material and inspiration. Edited by **Cathy Lane**, it is an exploration of the spoken and written word communicated through sound poetry, interviews, creative writing, visual-textual pieces and performance scores.

The book is published by **CRiSAP** and **RGAP**, and will be launched at the Small Publishers Fair, with readings / performances by 4 of the contributors - **David Toop**, **Ansuman Biswas**, **Brown Sierra**, and **Nye Parry**. [www.lcc.arts.ac.uk/17851.htm](http://www.lcc.arts.ac.uk/17851.htm) and [www.rgap.co.uk](http://www.rgap.co.uk)

The Small Publishers Fair is organised by **RGAP**.

RGAP (Research Group for Artists Publications) was formed by Martin Rogers in 1994, and is an independent, artist-led organisation, which publish artists' books and editions, and works with other centres in the UK and abroad, setting up collaborative projects, publications, exhibitions and events.

As well as working with visual artists, RGAP has published editions by composers, writers, sound, and performance artists, together with books of research and criticism.