

MEDIA RELEASE Thursday 13 October 2016
For immediate release

SMALL PUBLISHERS CELEBRATED IN BLOOMSBURY THIS NOVEMBER

The Small Publishers' Fair 2016 will take place at Conway Hall in London's Bloomsbury on Friday 4 and Saturday 5 November from 11am to 7pm each day. The art deco hall will host sixty five UK and international presses, an exhibition and a programme of readings, talks and book launches.

Small Publishers Fair features limited edition books that rarely make their way onto the High Street. Visitors can see, handle and buy artists' and fine press books, zines, poetry pamphlets and postcards. They can also meet and talk with the artists, poets, writers, book-designers and publishers.

Organiser, Helen Mitchell said:

"The fair has a great atmosphere. It attracts people for the connections to be made, for the conversations, and for the pleasure of seeing so much original work and creativity in one place."

Maria White, artists' books specialist and for 22 years chief cataloguer for Tate Library, said about the Fair:

"For collectors, whether for public collections and libraries, or for private collections, it's an opportunity to see a large range of high level work at one time."

This year's special exhibition 'Avant-Folk' looks at small press publishers in Britain and America from the 1960s to the present day who have been influenced by both folk traditions and the avant-garde. It features work by leading poets and artists including Simon Cutts, Lorine Niedecker, Ian Hamilton Finlay and Jonathan Williams.

Above the stage at Conway Hall are the words "To thine own self be true". They are loved by the publishers for capturing something of their own lives and work, as well as the spirit of the Fair.

Entry to the fair, exhibition and all activities is free. For the full programme visit smallpublishersfair.co.uk
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EDITOR'S NOTES

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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SMALL PUBLISHERS FAIR

The Fair was founded in 2002 and has taken place annually in Conway Hall since 2003. It is organised by Helen Mitchell and is independent, self-funding and not-for-profit.

PUBLISHERS

Click here for a full list: smallpublishersfair.co.uk/participants/ Here are snapshots of some of the presses:

Atlas Press, London www.atlaspress.co.uk

This year Atlas Press celebrates 35 years of publishing works by "many of the great unclassifiables" – artists and writers associated with French Symbolism, German Expressionism, International Dada, Surrealism, Le Grand Jeu, Vienna Actionism, Situationism, the Collège de 'Pataphysique, Nouveau Réalisme, Fluxus, Gruppo 63, the Oulipo and others.

Boekie Woekie, Amsterdam, boewoe.home.xs4all.nl/index.htm

One of a handful of specialist artist's bookshops in the world, this self-financing business is Europe's, if not the world's, venue for artists' books. Founded and run by artists Henriëtte van Egten (Dutch), Rúna Thorkelsdóttir (Icelandic) and Jan Voss (German), every year Boekie Woekie attends one or two book fairs: Frankfurt or New York, and every year the Small Publishers Fair here in London.

Liver and Lights Scriptorium liverandlights.co.uk

Fuelled by punk's DIY ethos John Bentley has, since the 1980s, been making books for galleries, as interactive installations, as community projects and as campaigns. Complete sets of Liver and Lights Scriptorium publications can be found in Tate Library, National Art Library (V&A), and British Library.

New Arcadian Press, Leeds newarcadianpress.co.uk

The New Arcadian Journal is a limited edition, fine press book that combines art and scholarship with understated design to explore the cultural politics of landscapes. On the agenda are garden works by contemporary artists, the poetics of place and the study of political gardening and more.

Siglio Press, Hudson River Valley, New York sigliopress.com

Siglio publishes books and editions that live at the intersection of art & literature.

"Lisa Pearson is publishing books with the skill of a craftsman, framing the printed word as a work of art..."
Los Angeles Times

Test Centre, London, testcentre.org.uk

An independent publishing house and record label with an interest in the spoken and written word. Based in Hackney, East London, it was established in 2011 by Will Shutes and Jess Chandler.

"Test Centre...have returned Hackney to a state of readiness and experimental action." *Iain Sinclair*

Uniformbooks, Devon colinsackett.co.uk/uniformbookshome.php

An imprint for the visual and literary arts, cultural geography and history, music and bibliographic studies, characterised by a uniformity of format and expansive variety of contributors and subjects.

John Bevis' recent book 'The Keartons', was reviewed by Tim Dee in The Guardian "...excellent book, informative and intelligent, beguiled and questioning..."

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2016/jul/14/the-keartons-inventing-nature-photography-in-pictures>

SPECIAL EXHIBITION – AVANT-FOLK

'Avant-folk; Publishing in the Vernacular' is curated by Dr Ross Hair. Several of the featured artists are, or have been regulars at Small Publishers Fair. Books by Simon Cutts and Erica Van Horn can be bought from them at their Coracle Press table.

UEA Publishing Project will launch a pamphlet to mark the exhibition, and it is hoped that Ross Hair's book *Avant-Folk: Small Press Poetry Networks from 1950 to the Present*, published by Liverpool University Press, will be launched at the Fair. An Avant Folk seminar will take place on Friday 4 November from midday to 1pm. smallpublishersfair.co.uk/readings-launches

CONWAY HALL

Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL

www.conwayhall.org.uk