

Small Publishers Fair

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THE SMALL PUBLISHERS FAIR 2019

The Small Publishers Fair is an annual gathering of small press publishers, writers, artists, poets and book designers. The 2019 Fair takes place on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 November from 11am to 7pm daily, when sixty five small press publishers from across the UK and around the world will gather together in London's Conway Hall, centre of humanism and literary Bloomsbury.

The Fair is distinctive for the quality and range of work on show including, artists' books, fine press editions, poetry pamphlets, zines and ephemera such as postcards. Prices range from £2 to over £200. Many publications are limited editions and hard to find.

This year's Fair includes first-time appearances from A Published Event (Australia), Bad Betty Press (London), Elisabeth Tonnard (Netherlands), Fine Press Poetry (Rochdale), Fitzcarraldo Editions (London), Haverthorn Press (Surrey), The Last Books (Amsterdam), Penteract Press (Shropshire) and Russell Weekes (London).

Also new to the Fair are MsPress, the imprint of Christine McCauley, who will launch her portfolio of prints, book and pamphlets commemorating the bi-centenary of the Peterloo Massacre, and Prototype Publishing – the new imprint of Jess Chandler. Chandler also curates this year's exhibition *Test Centre: Through the Archives* which looks at her previous press, run with Will Shutes from 2011 to 2018 (see editor's notes).

Readings and talks take place both afternoons. These will include a reading from *Good Morning, Mr Crusoe* (CB Editions), a book about Englishness and Brexit by Jack Robinson, aka Charles Boyle;

and John Healy reading from his second novel *Metal Mountain* (etruscan books), published thirty years after his autobiography and modern classic *The Grass Arena*.

Earlier this month a new Small Publishers Fair website was launched. It provides archive and background information on the Fair and previous participants, as well as full details for visitors. The website and print, including an expanded 20-page programme, feature the new typographic identity, designed by Colin Sackett.

These new developments were supported by StartEast, a grant programme funded by the European Regional Development Fund and Arts Council England's Creative Local Growth Programme. The Small Publishers Fair itself remains independent, self-funding and non-for-profit.

Entry to the Fair, exhibition, readings and talks is free. Conway Hall is minutes from Holborn tube. For full details visit smallpublishersfair.co.uk

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

More information

Website smallpublishersfair.co.uk

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Photos

smallpublishersfair.co.uk/press or email helen@smallpublishersfair.co.uk

The Small Publishers Fair

The Fair was founded by artist and publisher Martin Rogers and first took place, in 2002, in the Royal Festival Hall. It moved to Conway Hall in 2003 and has taken place there annually ever since.

The Fair has been curated, organised and developed by Helen Mitchell since 2012, with design by Colin Sackett, of Uniformbooks, since the beginning.

Conway Hall

Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL, www.conwayhall.org.uk (Holborn tube)

Exhibition – Test Centre: Through the Archives

Test Centre Publications, an independent publishing house and record label based in Hackney, London, was run by Jess Chandler and Will Shutes from 2011 to 2018. Its varied output ranged from spoken-word vinyl LPs to debut poetry collections, experimental fiction, anthologies, interdisciplinary projects and an annual magazine of new writing, Test Centre.

At the end of 2018, Test Centre split into two separate entities: Will Shutes' book dealing and occasional publishing business now operates independently as Test Centre Books, while Prototype was established by Jess Chandler as a new independent publishing house, building on the Test Centre aesthetic.

The Small Publishers Fair exhibition looks back at Test Centre's publishing history, from early limited edition pamphlets, prints and vinyl LPs with Iain Sinclair, Chris Petit and Stewart Home, to the growth of its output and reputation into an established and innovative independent publisher of poetry, fiction and interdisciplinary and collaborative projects.

It will include works by Derek Jarman, Sam Riviere, Jen Calleja, SJ Fowler, Rachael Allen, Chris Torrance, Jack Underwood, Holly Pester, Wayne Holloway-Smith and Max Porter.

Items on display will include signed, limited edition prints; promotional material for events and readings with a list of acclaimed writers and artists including Lee Harwood, Tom Raworth and Thurston Moore; and the complete collection of Test Centre's records and books, never exhibited before.

Jess Chandler's new imprint [Prototype](#) will be taking part in this year's fair, with all available Test Centre items for sale at the stall, next to the exhibition on the stage at Conway Hall.