

PLASTIC WORDS

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Registered to ISO 9080  
December 2014-  
January 2015  
Raven Row E17LS

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# PLASTIC WORDS

Organised by John Douglas Millar, David Musgrave, Luke Skrebowski, Natasha Soobramanien and Luke Williams.

Raven Row plays host for six weeks to a series of public events that mine the contested space between contemporary literature and art.

Taking this space as a starting point, the participants – including leading writers, visual and performance artists – reflect on the possible overlaps, parallels, tangents and interferences between some of today's most adventurous forms of writing and art making. The variety of formats reflects the diversity of the contributors, spanning readings, performances, panel discussions and publishing experiments.

A companion display entitled *Marginalia* with artworks by Eleanor Antin, Isidore Isou, John Murphy and Philippe Thomas, curated by Antony Hudek, will be on view during events and upon request.

At each event, the pop-up bookshop Luminous Books will present a selection of titles written by and related to the speakers in *Plastic Words*. For the final event in the series, Luminous Books will join forces with Publication Studio for its first London appearance.

All events are free. Except for the opening event, reservations are encouraged via [ravenrow.org](http://ravenrow.org).

**PAUL ABBOTT** and **CARA TOLMIE** are artists based in London and frequent collaborators. Recent joint projects have taken place at Flat Time House, London and Spike Island, Bristol.

**PETER ADOLPHSEN** is an author based in Copenhagen. His novel *Machine* was published by Harvill Secker in 2008, and a selection of his short stories was included in *Best European Fiction 2011*.

**JEREMY AKERMAN** is a London-based artist, curator, lecturer and co-director of Akerman Daly, an organisation that commissions and publishes writing by artists.

**LOUISA BAILEY** founded and runs Luminous Books, an itinerant bookshop with a focus on art, fiction and theory. She also instigated Publication Studio London.

**GERRY BIBBY** is an artist based in Berlin with recent solo shows at The Showroom, London, and Silberkuppe, Berlin. His novel *The Drumhead* has recently been published by Sternberg Press.

**IAIN BOAL** is a social historian, co-founder of the Retort Collective and founding member of MayDay Rooms, London.

**AMI CLARKE** is a London-based artist and founder of Banner Repeater, a reading room with a public archive of artists' publishing, and a project space at Hackney Downs station, London.

**DAVID CUNNINGHAM** is a London-based writer, lecturer and member of the editorial collective for *Radical Philosophy*.

**ARNAUD DESJARDIN** is a London-based artist and publisher and founder of The Everyday Press.

**HELEN DEWITT** is a Berlin-based writer. She is the author of *The Last Samurai* (Talk Miramax/Chatto & Windus, 2000), *Lightning Rods* (New Directions, 2011/And Other Stories, 2012), and, with Ilya Gridneff, of *Your Name Here* (in limbo since 2006).

**BRIAN DILLON** is a London-based writer and critic, and UK editor of *Cabinet* magazine. His most recent book *Ruin Lust* was published by Tate in 2014.

**ERIC FABRE** is a Brussels-based collector, whose gallery, Garage Cosmos, frequently holds exhibitions featuring work from his collection.

**CATHERINE GOLDSTEIN** is Director of Research, History of Mathematics, at the CNRS, Paris.

**ANTONY HUDEK** is Curator and Deputy Director, Raven Row, and co-director of Occasional Papers, London.

**JANICE KERBEL** is an artist based in London, whose performance *Doug* was commissioned by The Common Guild, Glasgow, in 2014.

**CHRIS KRAUS** is a Los Angeles-based writer and critic. She is the author of four novels, most recently *Summer of Hate* (Semiotext(e)/Native Agents, 2012).

**ESTHER LESLIE** is a London-based writer and lecturer. Her most recent book is *Derelects: Thought Worms from the Wreckage* (Unkant, 2014).

**TOM MCCARTHY** is a London-based writer and novelist. His book *Satin Island* is forthcoming from Random House in 2015.

**JOHN DOUGLAS MILLAR** is a London-based writer, poet and critic. He contributes regularly to *Art Monthly*, *Frieze* and *The White Review*, among others.

**DAVID MUSGRAVE** is an artist based in London with recent solo shows at Luhring Augustine, New York and greengrassi, London. His novel *Unit* is forthcoming from LemonMelon.

**DONALD NICHOLSON-SMITH** joined the English section of the Situationist International in 1965 and was expelled in 1967. He was a member of King Mob, and is a preeminent translator of Situationist writings.

**LOUISE O'HARE** is a London-based editor. She works at *Afterall*, founded the London Bookshop Map and co-runs the artist-led publishing fair and online magazine Three Letter Words.

**PETER OSBORNE** is a London-based philosopher, lecturer and member of the editorial collective for *Radical Philosophy*. His book *Anywhere or Not at All: Philosophy of Contemporary Art* was published by Verso in 2013.

**DANIEL O'SULLIVAN** is an English artist, multi-instrumentalist, producer and composer. He recently curated the Transmissions Festival (Ravenna, 2013).

**PUBLICATION STUDIO**, founded in Portland, Oregon, in 2009, is an experiment in sustainable publishing with twelve sibling studios across North America, Canada and Europe.

**HANNAH SILVA** is a writer and performer known for her innovative explorations of voice, language and form.

**LUKE SKREBOWSKI** is a London-based art historian and lecturer who co-edited *Aesthetics and Contemporary Art* (Sternberg, 2011).

**NATASHA SOOBRAMANIAN** is a London-based author. She is currently collaborating on a novel with Luke Williams, an extract from which has been published in *The White Review*.

**NICK THURSTON** is an author, artist and lecturer. He is the co-editor of the imprint information as material and was recently artist in residence at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin.

**MARK TITCHNER** is a London-based artist. His musical collaboration with Grumbling Fur premiered at The Roundhouse, London, this year.

**ALEXANDER TUCKER** is an artist and musician who frequently collaborates with visual artists. His album *Third Mouth* was issued by Thrill Jockey in 2012.

**MCKENZIE WARK** is a New York-based theorist whose writings include *A Hacker Manifesto* (2004), *Gamer Theory* (Harvard, 2007) and *The Beach Beneath The Street* (Verso, 2011).

**EVA WEINMAYR** is a London-based artist and co-founder of AND Publishing, a platform for new digital technologies to publish artists' books.

**LUKE WILLIAMS** is a London-based author. He is currently collaborating on a novel with Natasha Soobramanien, an extract from which has been published in *The White Review*.

Saturday  
13.12.2014  
5.30–9pm

## OPENING EVENT: VERBALATIONS

Live works throughout Raven Row by Paul Abbott and Cara Tolmie, Gerry Bibby, David Musgrave, Hannah Silva, Luke Skrebowski, Natasha Soobramanien and Luke Williams, Nick Thurston, Mark Titchner with Daniel O'Sullivan and Alexander Tucker.

Tuesday  
16.12.2014  
6.30pm

## TAKING A LINE FOR A WALK: ARTISTS, WRITING AND LITERATURE

Panel discussion with Tom McCarthy, McKenzie Wark and Janice Kerbel. Chaired by Brian Dillon.

Wednesday  
17.12.2014  
6.30pm

## A PRODUCTIVIST LITERATURE

Presentations by Esther Leslie, Nick Thurston and McKenzie Wark. Chaired by John Douglas Millar.

Thursday  
08.01.2015  
6.30pm

## FROM SITUATIONISM TO SABREMETRICS: EXPERIMENTS FOR THE NOVEL IN THE AGE OF BIG DATA

Helen DeWitt on her writing practice, with reference to collaboration, works-in-progress, multilingual texts, the concealed dynamics of commodification, the machinery of cultural capital and the pioneering work of Edward Tufte. With a selection from her personal library.

Wednesday  
14.01.2015  
6.30pm

## THE CHILDLIKE LIFE OF THE BLACK TARANTULA: A 20TH-CENTURY FABLE

Chris Kraus on her in-progress critical biography of Kathy Acker (1947–97) and her approach to biography as a literary form that exists in the friction between writer and subject.

Thursday  
15.01.2015  
3–5pm

## SUSTAINABLE PUBLISHING

Taking Publication Studio as a starting point, an open discussion about print-on-demand, sustainable publishing methods and alternative networks for independent and artist-led publishing, with Louisa Bailey, Ami Clarke, Arnaud Desjardin, Louise O'Hare and Eva Weinmayr.

6.30pm

## PUBLISHING MODELS AND TECHNOLOGIES OF PUBLICATION

Panel discussion with Chris Kraus, Helen DeWitt and Jeremy Akerman about the forms of publication best suited to writing in an expanded field. Chaired by Antony Hudek.

Wednesday  
21.01.2015  
6.30pm

## NEW CONTEMPORANEITIES

Conversation between Peter Osborne and David Cunningham, on the relation between contemporary artistic and literary practices in both historical and theoretical context. Chaired by Luke Skrebowski.

Wednesday  
28.01.2015  
6.30pm

## SKELETON + FLESH: A STORY ABOUT ABSTRACTION

Work by David Musgrave – In this lecture, illustrated with explanatory images, an artificial art history lecturer reflects on the termination of its employment.

7pm

## HIT

Work by Janice Kerbel – A composition for solo baritone, selected from the song cycle *Doug* (2014), in which the titular figure is subject to a falling tortoise. Performed by Luke Thomas.

7.30pm

## TEN SMALL STORIES

Peter Adolphsen reads a selection of newly translated short and very short stories. For each, he will be transformed into a different animated glyph, diagramme, creature or personage by his collaborator.

Friday  
30.01.2015  
3–5pm

## REVISITING ISIDORE ISOU'S MECA-AESTHETICS

Seminar and open discussion about Letterism and its discontents with Iain Boal, Eric Fabre, Catherine Goldstein and Donald Nicholson-Smith.

6.30pm

## TRAITÉ DE BAVE ET D'ÉTERNITÉ

Screening of Isidore Isou's unforgiving 1951 film, introduced by Catherine Goldstein, Isou's daughter.

Leaflet designed by John Morgan studio with David Musgrave

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