

# ONCE UPON A TOMORROW.../UN TRO YFORY...

a sporadic shout from Surrealists in Wales

**FREE!**

**#6 June/Mehefin 2022**

*Available as a limited edition hardcopy & online*



## SURREALISTS IN WALES UNEQUIVOCALLY SUPPORT THE UKRAINIANS IN THEIR STRUGGLE!!

Complicated situations require complicated analysis, and complicated analysis requires complicated words... Complicated or otherwise - these are ours:

All wars exploit and destroy the working classes, whilst making big bucks for the capitalists. That said, a Gandhi figure could not have defeated Hitler... To simply be against war, however, is not sufficient. If I have a cold I get a runny nose - it is pointless my being against runny noses though, or try to prevent getting a runny nose; that is missing the point, I must take measures to avoid catching a cold. The same with war - to be against war and not against capitalism will never stop the running nose.

Let us be clear - we Surrealists in Wales condemn all actions by Putin and his far-right, Great Russian cronies in their imperialistic capitalist invasion of an independent nation. Just as Thatcher was a war criminal and just as her bastard offspring Blair was a war criminal so is Putin - we already have plenty of evidence of the barbarism of his imperial aggression: massacre, wholesale destruction of civilian areas and the use of rape and torture - and we state unequivocally that Putin and his gangsters should be sent to the Hague and tried.

### Here and Now

As surrealists and internationalists we are against the idea of the Nation State (as we are against the Church and so much more!), but in the here and now we stand wholeheartedly with the Ukrainians in their defence of their sovereignty. That said, we find it somewhat ratcheted up to fever pitch the hatred that the West has shown for Russia and Russians. Russia is not Putin; Russia, as with everywhere else, comprises exploited struggling-to-survive working class people who are misled by their autocratic oligarch rulers. The West's enthusiasm for defending Ukraine (of course, it is right to defend it) is at least in part due to its subconscious (or not) desire to have revenge for Soviet days; and never allow the possibility of Socialism (which it was not) having a chance to take hold once again. However, we support arming the Ukrainian people in their struggle whilst, of course, providing no political support to NATO and Western capitalism. We fervently await the day when our accounts are settled with them!! Now, lives must be saved and the slaughter must cease immediately. We say:

**Stop Putin's War of Aggression!  
Self-determination for Ukraine!  
Open the Borders - Refugees Are Welcome Here!**

*Jean Bonnin, Neil Coombs, Steve Handsaker, John Richardson,  
Darren Thomas & John Welton  
May 2022*

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## It Is Dusk in the Border Town...

Prompted by Russia's war in Ukraine (see our collective statement, ***Surrealists In Wales Unequivocally Support The Ukrainians In Their Struggle!!***), I thought of the broad - very broad, in fact - theme of **borders** for this issue. National borders not only are of concern for us here in Wales and are, in many ways, the obvious go-to example, but I was also thinking of borders or boundaries in terms of thinking, demarcating ideas, issues, thoughts, feelings and so on; anything which puts a line *around* or *between* groups, identity, places so people are in or out (or, maybe, *between...* in a *liminal* sense).



**Untitled  
Neil Coombs &  
John Welson**

**A Collective(ish) Game** - *As someone who lives in Wales close to the border with England, I like the idea of border towns as particular places where the Marvellous can be encountered/revealed. And I find myself thinking about border towns at dusk, just before sleep (& dreaming), a time of transition and change with the potential for mystery. So here's the collective bit. Participants were invited to add just 2 more lines to the common opening line: It is dusk in the border town... Here are the responses from Jean Bonnin, Steve Handsaker, John Richardson, Darren Thomas & John Welson.*  
**JR**



**The Empress  
Darren Thomas**

It is dusk in the border town  
The man we are watching slowly lifts his coffee cup  
The stars explode with anticipation

It is dusk in the border town  
The angels of nature and anti-god take flight  
We have become the spirits - fly

It is dusk in the border town  
And modern artists burrow through piles of cash  
Sniffing out electrodes for their banal interrogations

It is dusk in the border town  
There where her shadow threaded itself to my shadow  
Like lips cast in the prayer of a kiss

It is dusk in the border town  
The torn cracks, inflamed, pulsing echoes resound  
anew  
Meibion Glyndwr, the breath awakened



It is dusk in the border town  
 Despite the outrageous lightning  
 Nothing is revealed

It is dusk in the border town  
 The three-legged dog laughs upright  
 There has been a rush on pantomime dog  
 outfits in the border town bakery and  
 disguise emporium

It is dusk in the border town  
 We cannot see the eyes that inhabit the  
 mirrors

Clothed in the sleep of children

*It is dusk in the border town  
 A naked woman can be seen on the church  
 tower  
 Slowly she is covered in ice*

*It is dusk in the border town  
 Logic and reason meet with chance and the unconscious  
 And the moment is caught in a flake of pure blood*

It is dusk in the border town  
 The febrile earth implodes in slow motion  
 Naked in its innocence of sin

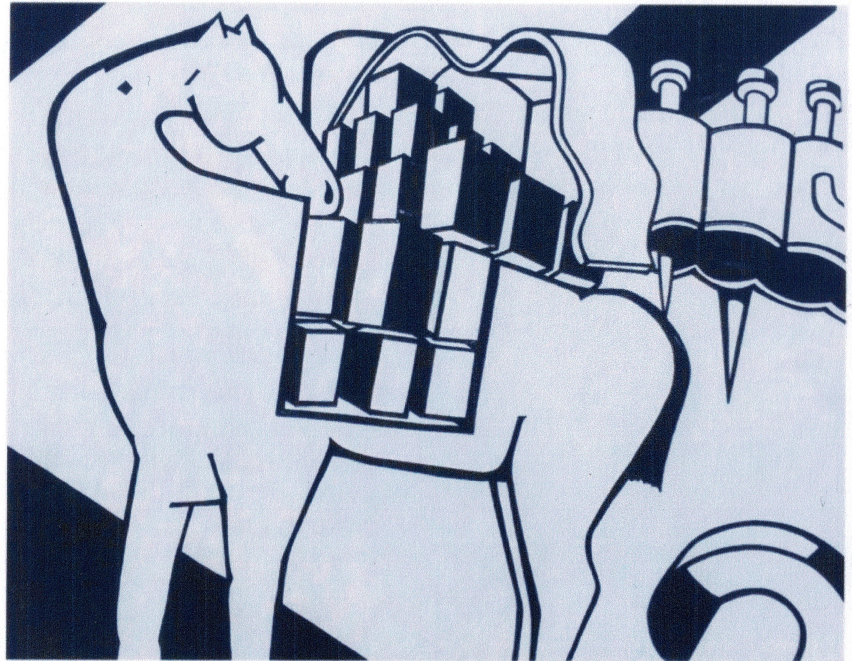
*It is dusk in the border town  
 Leaves float upwards  
 The sun and the moon sit happily next to each other in the  
 sky*

It is dusk in the border town  
 Stealing butterflies for the ceremony of the Moontide  
 Waves caught in the abyss of choosing

It is dusk in the border town  
 Leaves float upwards  
 The sun and the moon sit happily next to each other in the sky



Poster  
 Jean Bonnin



Bordering Upon the Plausible  
 John Welson



Interplanetary Convulsion - John Richardson



Icarus Rising - Darren Thomas



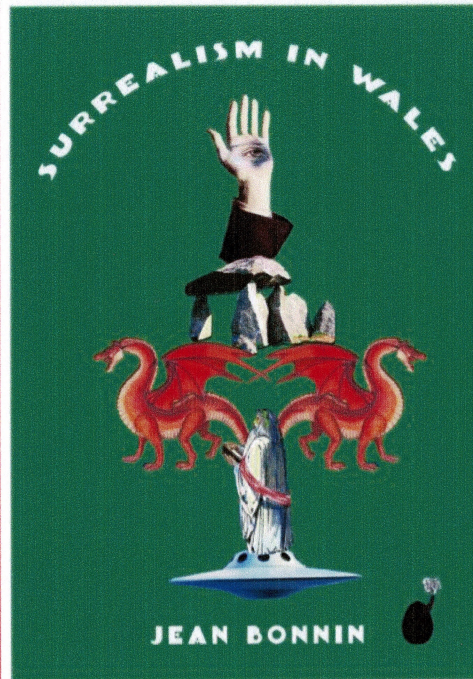
**STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!**

SPT TV - launching soon on [www.jeanbonnin.com](http://www.jeanbonnin.com)  
 Fed up of the mainstream media... SPT-TV will have 'Surrealist, Political, and Travel' stuff to watch... or it will have 'Surrealist, Philosophical, and Travel' stuff - or any combination of these general areas of interest. Sometimes less surrealist and more travel, visa versa...

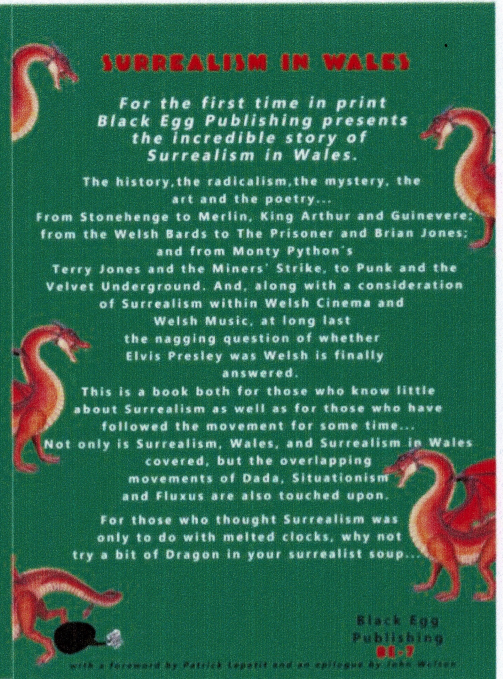
Readers are invited to:

- design a SPT TV logo
- send a wee one to three minute film as an introduction to the new television channel

Contributions to [www.jeanbonnin.com](http://www.jeanbonnin.com) most welcome!



*(Ed. Excellent book that features quite a bit about the legendary(?) Tribe of Welsh Surrealists who contribute to Once Upon A Tomorrow/Un Tro Yfory!)*



**I AM NOT A NUMBER...  
 I AM NUMBER 6!  
 I AM NOT A NUMBER...  
 I AM NUMBER 6!**

Forthcoming poetry collection  
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*Edited & Published by JR*

CLYRO  
 SURREAL  
 1/35  
 PRESS

Contributing to this edition...  
 Jean Bonnin, Neil Coombs,  
 Steve Handsaker,  
 John Richardson, Darren  
 Thomas & John Welson

*To continue the adventure,  
 please visit their sites....*

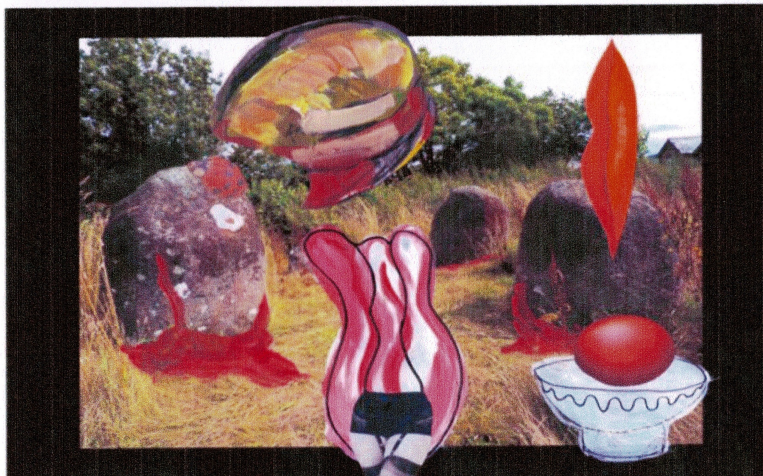
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## Chance Meetings

An exhibition of  
 paintings, collage, mixed  
 media and sculpture by  
 Steven Handsaker

Ty Tân Art  
 Castle Street, Hay-on-Wye  
 Thu 26/5 - Sun 12/6/22



**Untitled (2022)**

**Jean Bonnin, John Welson, Neil Coombs & John Richardson**