

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

a sporadic shout from Surrealists in Wales

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#8 January/Ionawr 2024



ONCE UPON A TOMORROW/UN TRO YFORY SURREALISM IN WALES, THE GLOBE, HAY ON WYE, 9 APRIL 2023

The largest surrealist event in the UK, and certainly in Cymru/Wales for many years, was attended by many of the active surrealists from the UK in April. Equally, if not more importantly, it was attended by many people who were simply curious as to the nature of this radical & subversive moment called surrealism. The event was held in an old Welsh Chapel and as well as a series of presentations, featured a one-day exhibition of work from the **Welsh Tribe of Surrealists**, curated by **Tracy Thursfield & John Welson**.

John Richardson, opened the event speaking yn Gymraeg (in Welsh) in public for the first time, setting the tone for what was to come proclaiming that surrealism is here, relevant, emancipatory & is a worldview concerned with re-enchanting the world with 'what can be' rather than 'what is'. He went on to note the coincidence of the venue and date (it was easter sunday) with the famous provocation staged by the Lettrist Movement at Notre Dame in 1953, repeating, from the pulpit, some of Michel Murre's words as an act of homage. The event was up and running!!



From the Pulpit - 'God is Dead'!

Then it was **John Welson's** turn who presented *Surrealism is Dead, Long Live Surrealism!* He swirled our consciences through the beautiful mystery & revolutionary alchemical adventure that is surrealism, explaining 'what it is' and 'what it is not'.

Jean Bonnin followed with a survey of *Surrealism in Wales* (see his indispensable book of the same name) taking in our history, radicalism, mystery, art & poetry along with music and cinema. We had the surrealism of *Y Ddraig Goch* (The Red Dragon)!!

The session *Surrealist Cinema*, including films by Ian Walker; Taya King; Darren Thomas; Neil Coombs; & Jean Bonnin, was introduced, explained & caressed delicately by **Darren Thomas** (with help from **Taya King**). The final session, *Beyond the Limits of Reason: Surrealist Poetry*, introduced by **JR**, saw **Jean; Steve Handsaker; Tracy; Darren; John W;** & **JR** complete the proceedings with a 15 minute spurts of poetry. A closing speech, more convivial conversation with surrealist friends and comrades from Scotland, Leeds, Liverpool (Surrealpool), Bristol, Stoke, Telford, the South East & elsewhere and we were done!

JR with thanks to Jean for his notes!

Just Some of the Surrealists at The Globe Event, 9 April...



Top row -
John W, Jean & Tracy.
Bottom row -
Steve, and Darren & Taya

With thanks to **Slim Smith!**

The limited edition catalogue, available for £9.95 from www.jeanbonnin.com (click on the 'Books' section), is an essential guide & souvenir of this momentous day.

It includes the programme-cum-running order of the day; some of the artworks & images that were part of the exhibition; the biographies of those who participated; as well as explanation of what surrealism is and what surrealism in Wales is - and its relationship to the zine: Once Upon A Tomorrow/Un Tro Yfory (examples of which are included in the catalogue). For those unable to be there, it is a very good indicator of the fun, mischief, and contrariness that those present got up to!

Mini Monologues from Al Jones' next short film...

Tonight the birds are coming. Big yellow birds coming to dinner. Gazpacho with earthworms to start. They won't stay long - they're catching a flight to Paris.

I've opened the wardrobe door & slipped my snake on. We're going for a walk to the park bench. There we'll rest & coil up under the sun.

In the Middle of Things (Extract)

A broken jar of horseradish leads to the outdoor lavatory where a stone at the back of my tongue drops down the well as I rise up in the opposite direction bolt upright in a bucket of water

Jeremy Over

Blue Sky Lumps

A Priest in a brothel strokes the throat of a screaming nightingale. Allergic to laughter, he kisses a witch's stocking dripping with the spectre of Love.

The talkative ocean swallows a flimsy marigold as on the horizon, a mermaid caresses a splintered orange.

The puppet's day is almost done.
A wrinkled poet revolts against the Moon's white underbelly.
Cross the bridge between a feather and a jewel, where the butterfly dances on ice.

A bewildered darkness
transforms the laughing Christ.

**Edited by Steve Handsaker from a
Collective Game played by Steve, JR &
Tracy Thursfield, 21/11/23**

Collaboration

Infinity described in the arch of imagination
Scissor kicks
The inner eye exploring watery depths
Delicate blossoms
Digging the dirt of owl eyes
Piercing looks
Melting into oceanic waves of pleasure
Delicate lips
Symbiotic elements fuse into
Embracing life
An enchanting *ludic* activity
Communicating Vessels
Explorations in the golden labyrinth of creativity
Free rein

Janice Hathaway & John Richardson

A COLLECTIVE GAME - RESPONSES TO A POSTCARD, HAY ON WYE - HIGH TOWN



Responses were received from Jean Bonnin (JB); John Richardson (JR); Tracy Thursfield (TT); & John Welson (JW)

Tell me what you think is absent - text or modified image - the presence of which would reveal the marvellous in the every day.

A shadow of an invisible shadow laughing; and, the knees of Racheal von von von Von, from the battle of 'the dissolving ankles' . (JB)

See modified postcard (JR)

An image of Citizen Smith (from the popular 1970s BBC sitcom) on the gable end of the Butter Market (TT)

The fruit of an echo....unshod horses hooves; the music of childhood (JW)

Say who you would send the postcard to and what your message would be.

I would send the postcard to my younger self, saying: this is for Jean from your future wife Beryl...(JB)

My message would read: Here we found the imaginary made real. I have sent it to my Erotic Blue Eyed Sun Girl (JR)

Rafael Sabatini's black cape caught in Clifford's breeze. (JW)



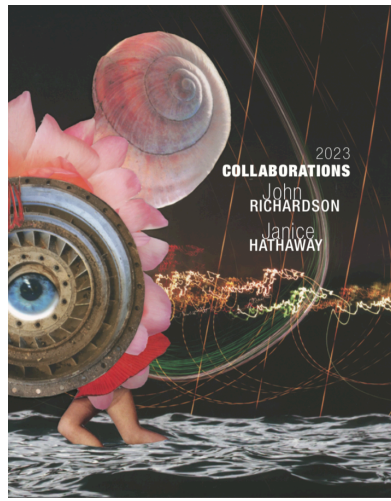
Citizen Smith image
submitted by
Tracy Thursfield



Labour of Love
Taya King &
Darren Thomas

**Original artworks
made with love**

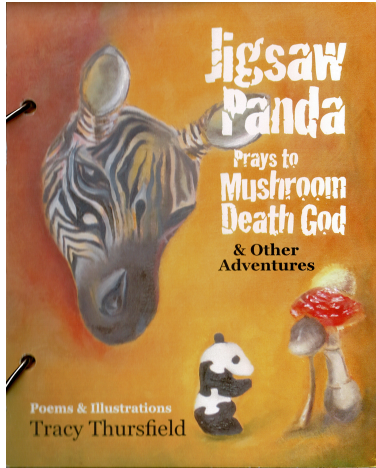
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2023 COLLABORATIONS
Janice Hathaway &
John Richardson

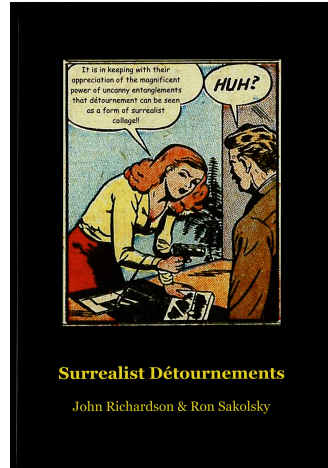
Surrealist colleagues
Janice Hathaway (USA) &
John Richardson (Wales)
engaged collectively to
produce collage and
writing for Collaborations
2023

Available as a free PDF at
www.fresh-dirt.us/posts/



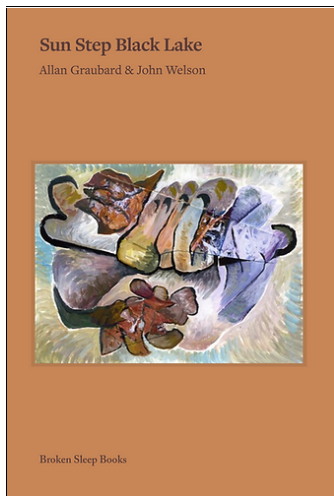
**Jigsaw Panda Prays to
Mushroom Death God**
Tracy Thursfield
The Sirius Press, 2023

A Surrealist response to
the last few years
through the eyes of
Jigsaw Panda. £20.00
to include postage and
packaging for the UK.
To purchase Email -
tjt@sirius.myzen.co.uk



Surrealist Détournements
John Richardson & Ron
Sakolsky, Dark Windows
Press, 2023, £10

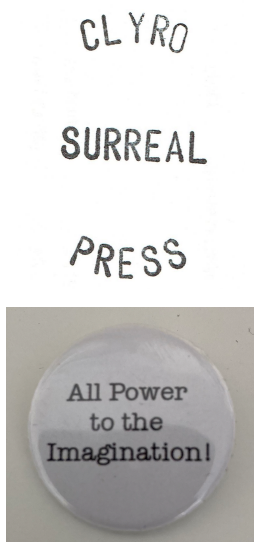
This booklet is beautiful as the
casual encounter, on the
Surrealist vivisection table, of
a pair of scissors and the spirit
of anarchy. By a unique fusion
of Sulphur and Mercury,
Dialectics and Poetry, JR & RS
transformed the cutting edge
of Détournement into a
powerful and sharp weapon in
the class war. *Michael Löwy*



Sun Step Black Lake,
Allan Graubard &
John Welson
Broken Sleep Books, £7.99
www.brokensleepbooks.com

A beautiful call & response,
initiated by Welson's luminous
paintings of enchanted
landscapes. From these,
Graubard composes his tales
– strange and mysterious
encounters... (David Coulter,
translator of *The Novel of the
Tupinamba Indian*)

2 Détournements
by JR using text
from Michael
Löwy & Olivier
Besanceot's
**Revolutionary
Affinities: Toward
A Marxist-
Anarchist
Solidarity**
(PM Press, 2023)



**Once Upon A Tomorrow/Un Tro Yfory
is Edited & Published by John Richardson**
Contributing to this edition...

- Jean Bonnin - www.jeanbonnin.com
- Steve Handsaker
- Janice Hathaway - www.janicehathaway.com
- Al Jones - Member Welsh Red Poets.
(Films on YouTube *Weird Unit* Channel)
- Taya King - www.lasirenasurrealistgroup.wordpress.com
- Jeremy Over
- John Richardson - www.johnrichardsonsurreal.com
- Slim Smith - www.slimsmith.com
- Darren Thomas - www.lasirenasurrealistgroup.wordpress.com
- Tracy Thursfield - www.tracythursfield.com
- John Welson - www.johnwelson.com

