



Haftstein
W. Roth u. H. Hartwig
So geht es besser

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ARTIST'S COVER PAGE: AMTSBIBLIOTHEK BY DIETMAR PFISTER

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Artists' Books Exhibitions

University of the West of England, Bristol, UK
Tom Trusky Exhibition Cases
Special Collections Room, Bower Ashton Library

Guy Begbie and Lawrence Upton
16th September - 27th October 2011

Guy Begbie and Lawrence Upton first met over a decade ago at UWE, Bristol and maintained considerable mutual respect; but without having any great contact.

The mere fact of living in different cities, and with busy lives, had discouraged collaboration which both experience as a physical rather than a cerebral activity, one arising from live presence and informal discussion. In 2011, they were commissioned by the University of Dundee to collaborate in the making of an artists' book-work for an AHRC-funded research project: *Poetry Beyond Text*.



Work in progress in the studio, Autumn 2010

It involves considerations of conscious and unconscious decision-making, the integration of differing skills and the reconciliation of aesthetic assumptions in order to achieve empathy, which, they suggest, takes them beyond mere cooperation as they seek to merge what is, clumsily, called individual creativity to achieve what might seem to be, in effect, the work of one mind, what Burroughs and Gysin termed "a third mind".

Their work, however, does not seek to remove, disguise or smooth over different physicalities; it retains its gestural origins.

On show at UWE this autumn, among other items, will be two book works which have been shown in Dundee and Edinburgh this year (*foreshore* and *engine / house*) together with an ambitious large sculptural book called *namely* previously exhibited at Center for the Arts in Buffalo USA. *foreshore* is a concertina book of treated photographs; *engine / house* is a complex "popup" structure in which pages and show through perforations create and contain readable spaces.

Underlying these and all their works is the concept of reading, as itself performance and as (potential perhaps actual) utterance, areas of activity which they hope to expand as they explore them together.



Work in progress in the studio, Autumn 2010

As a broad brush generalisation, one can say that one of Guy's centres of attention is in making book- and book-related objects; while one of Lawrence's is in making poems and vocal scores for performance; and in the performances themselves.

The collaboration has continued beyond the Dundee commission and has produced both a range of realised and planned works; and, also, a colloquial meditation upon what it means to collaborate which declares itself through the works.