



Book Works
19 Holywell Row
London EC2A 4JB
Telephone: 020 7247 2203
Facsimile: 020 7247 2540
www.bookworks.org.uk

SEMINA - WHERE THE NOVEL HAS A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN

BOOK WORKS OPEN SUBMISSIONS SERIES COMMISSIONING EDITOR: STEWART HOME

Theme

Semina takes its inspiration from a series of nine loose-leaf magazines issued by Californian beat artist Wallace Berman in the 1950s and 1960s. We are looking for artists and writers interested in experimental prose fiction, who transgress all the boundaries separating art and literature. Think of the ways in which Paul Gilroy theorised the history of modernism through the rubric of the Black Atlantic, W.E.B. Du Bois and double-consciousness, and the inescapable links between race and class: Anthony Joseph, Kathy Acker, Amiri Baraka, Samuel R. Delany, Darius James, Ishmael Reed, Ann Quin, Clarence Cooper Jr, Claude Cahun etc. Above all we're looking for artists and writers willing to take risks with their prose and who demonstrate total disregard for the conventions that structure received ideas about fiction.

Design

Semina is being designed by Fraser Muggeridge studio. The print-run will be up to 1,000 copies. Published works will be between 30,000 & 50,000 words or 72 & 128 pages.

Selection

Commissioned and edited by artist and writer Stewart Home, the series will publish nine books, six of which will be selected from open submission, two commissioned by the editor, with *Blood Rites of the Bourgeoisie* by Stewart Home the final title in the series. A shortlist would be selected from the applications in June 2009, and a final commission made by Stewart Home and Book Works staff, in July-August 2009.

Editorial

Book Works will be in charge of all aspects of production, including decisions involving, cover design, editorial control, budget, promotion and distribution of the book. Following commission, a first draft of the manuscript would be expected in November, to be edited in December through to February. The work will be edited by Stewart Home and Gavin Everall. Editing is expected to be a collaborative process between the editors and the commissioned artist/author, with

the aim of producing a text sympathetic to the ambitions of the series. The editors would expect to work closely with the commissioned artist/author on any redrafts and revisions. You will be consulted at each stage of the process and expected to help take decisions about the way in which the work is presented in book form. You will also be asked to work to deadlines and attend meetings as agreed, and must be willing to take some active part in the launch/promotion of the book.

How to apply

Please return the attached form with a proposal outline and a sample of between 3000 & 5000 words of the proposed work. If you envisage substantial shifts in style, technique or changes in how the text operates, please indicate this with examples. Please also include a CV, a registration fee of £10, and a stamped self-addressed envelope for your reply, before the deadline of 29 May 2009. If you want your submission and supporting material returned please include sufficient postage stamps. Submissions must be typed; hand written submissions or electronic files will not be accepted. Proposals should be text based, though this series may include illustrations. We are not looking for works that have already been written, we want to develop the book with you.

Eligibility

Proposals are welcome from all sections of society, irrespective of nationality and residence, and including practitioners from different culturally diverse backgrounds. Proposals must be in English.

Selection and schedule

The shortlist and selection from open submission for the third series of publications is scheduled for Summer 2009. We will write to let you know if your work has been short-listed and selected as soon as we can. If your work is short-listed we may then ring/contact you for further information or ask you to come and talk more about your proposal with us. We would expect the commissions to be underway from August, for publication in Spring 2010.

Feedback

Due to the volume of applications we receive each year we will not be able to give any specific feedback on individual proposals unless short-listed. We do run free artists' surgeries on a monthly basis, and are able to spend time discussing potential projects, offering help and advice on publishing and distribution of artists' books at these sessions.

Fee

A commissioning fee of £500 will be paid to the selected artists/writers, plus 100 copies of their book. Book Works will be responsible for all production, publishing and marketing costs. The selected artists will be asked to sign an agreement with Book Works that will include a contract and detailed schedule for work.

General information on Book Works

Book Works commissions new work in collaboration with artists, writers, and designers; publishes and produces books, multiples, videos and internet/new media projects; organizes exhibitions, installations, time-based and performance works, discussions and events. We distribute our own titles in the UK and work with distributors in the USA and Europe. We also have a studio offering a range of printing and binding facilities and services. For full details about Book Works past/current projects please refer to our website: www.bookworks.org.uk

Semina Series

- No 1 *Index* by Bridget Penney (2008)
- No 2 *One Break, A Thousand Blows!* by Maxi Kim (2008)
- No 3 *Bubble Entendre* by Mark Waugh (2009)
- No 4 *Rape New York* by Jana Leo (2009)
- No 5 *To Whom Life* by Ashkand Sepahvand (2009)
- No 9 *Blood Rites of the Bourgeoisie* by Stewart Home (2010)



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Book Works Commissions

Semina 2009

Name:

Address:

Telephone/fax:

Email:

Please fill in this form and return to Book Works by 29 May 2009, along with:

- 1. A proposal outline (of no more than 300 words)**
- 2. A sample of between 3000 & 5000 words of the proposed work**
- 3. A CV, plus samples of your previous work, information about relevant previous projects/work/publications, preferably as hard copies.**
- 4. A registration fee of £10**
- 5. A SAE, with sufficient stamps for return of material**
- 6. A complete Equal Opportunities Form (see attached)**

Note: Outlines, sample of writing and CVs must be typed and sent as hard copies; hand written submissions, electronic files, faxes, or emails will not be accepted.

Registration fee to be paid by cheque to Book Works (UK) Ltd, or by credit card (Mastercard, Visa, Amex accepted, please include name on card, card number and expiry date).



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Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form

Book Works is committed to being an equal opportunities organization and practices a policy aimed at promoting equal opportunity and access irrespective of race, gender, age, disability, religious or political beliefs, economic status or class.

As part of this policy, the following details are collated for monitoring purposes as part of our funding remit with Arts Council England and are treated in strictest confidence. We would be grateful for your assistance in completing and returning this form.

Personal details

Name (optional):

Date of Birth:

Gender:

Context

Please give the reason for your contact with Book Works e.g. board member, contract of employment, job application, artists' proposal, workshop attendance including name of workshop.

How did you find out about this scheme

e.g. advertisement/word of mouth/funding organisation/direct from Book Works?

Disability

Do you have a disability you would like Book Works to know about? Yes/No

Are you registered disabled?

Yes/No

Cultural background

Please indicate your cultural/ethnic background
(categories recommended by CRE)

Choose one section from 1-5, then indicate appropriate background.

1. White

British

English
Scottish
Welsh
Other

Irish

Other white background (please say which)

2. Mixed

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Other mixed background (please say which)

3. Asian, Asian British, Asian English, Asian Scottish or Asian Welsh

Bangladeshi
Indian
Pakistani

Other Asian background (please say which)

4. Black, Black British, Black English, Black Scottish or Black Welsh

African
Caribbean

Other black background (please say which)

5. Chinese, Chinese British, Chinese English, Chinese Scottish, Chinese Welsh or any other ethnic group

Chinese

Any other background (please say which)

Please return this form with your application to Book Works

Semina (3) (2009)