REALITY STREET
Notes for Contempo, Brighton
Tuesday 6 May 2014

THE SMALL PRESS MOVEMENT – & WHY I STARTED

**Reality Street** is the name of the press I have run for over 20 years.

www.realitystreet.co.uk


Reality Studios had started as a magazine, published at first in monthly parts and later as an annual volume – 1978-88. The entire run has been digitised and will soon be available online via Jacket2: jacket2.org

For more on small presses, see my essay “UK Small Press Publishing Since 1960” at epc.buffalo.edu/authors/edwards/edwards_press.html (written 1997, but revised subsequently for Mimeo Mimeo #4, 2010)

Another resource is www2.ntu.ac.uk/littlemagazines/default.asp

Some poetry presses of the early 1960s (and the people who started them) that inspired me:

Fulcrum Press (Stuart Montgomery)
Migrant (Gael Turnbull)
Goliard Press (Tom Raworth & Barry Hall)
Trigram Press (Asa Benveniste)
Ferry Press (Andrew Crozier)
Writers Forum (Bob Cobbing).

REALITY STREET, 1993-2014

First publication was Kelvin Corcoran’s *Lyric Lyric* (1993).

Some other significant titles:

*Out of Everywhere* (1996), anthology of adventurous writing by women
Denise Riley: *Selected Poems* (2000)
*The Reality Street Book of Sonnets* (2007)
Philip Terry: *tapestry* (2013) (shortlisted for the Goldsmiths Prize)

In recent years Reality Street has moved into publishing innovative prose fiction as well as poetry.
There have been nearly 70 titles so far.

Print-on-demand has revolutionised small press economics.
The Reality Street Supporter Scheme started in 1998 and has had the support of more than 200 individuals in the years since, ensuring the economic survival of the press.

The aim for me remains, many years later: To create a community of readers and writers.

*Ken Edwards*