

U DRS

Reality Studios

1978-1988

Historical Background:

This collection relates to the journal 'Reality Studios', a pioneering magazine featuring avant-garde poetry and prose; pieces of literary criticism and analysis; literary reviews and essays on matters covering various areas of literature, linguistics, philosophy and art.

It catered for a particular circle of poets and writers who represented a key facet of modern English Literature. Contributors included Tony Baker, Tom Lowenstein, Robert Sheppard, Simon Smith, Catherine Walsh and Geoff Ward.

It started in 1978 as a monthly newsletter and became an A4 volume published once a year and then a bound publication until its final edition was published in 1988. A small number of one-off pamphlets and occasional papers were also produced.

The journal was edited throughout its life by British poet and editor Ken Edwards, and received contributions from poets and other writers from both sides of the Atlantic.

Custodial history:

Purchased in 1993 with assistance from the V&A Purchase Grant Fund.

Description:

Material in the collection largely consists of volumes of 'Reality Studios'; pre-publication drafts of manuscripts to be published in the journal (rejected/unpublished material is only occasionally included); letters sent to the editor from contributors regarding their submissions and similar correspondence.

Arrangement:

U DRS/1 Publications, 1983-1988
U DRS/2 Correspondence, 1978-1988
U DRS/3 Occasional Papers, 1980s

Extent: 3 boxes (0.5 linear metres)

Related material:

Archives of the poetry magazines 'Listen' [U DX/73], 'New Review' [U DP/168], 'Phoenix' [U DP/162] and 'Wave' [U DP/158]

Access conditions:

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

U DRS/1	Publications 9 items	1983-1988
U DRS/1/1	<p>'Reality Studios' volume 5</p> <p>These are two unpublished, incomplete drafts of 'Reality Studios' volume 5. Not all manuscripts which would later be published as part of 'Reality Studios' volume 5 are present in both versions; those which are not can be found in U DRS/2/4.</p> <p>Poetry and related writings are contributed by Geraldine Monk, Robert Sheppard, Kelvin Corcoran, Paul Gogarty, Ken Hollings, Jay Ramsay, Gadji Hollander, Peter Middleton, Glenda George, Jeremy Adair and Lyn Lonidier. There is a play script of Paul Buck's short drama piece 'Phobia'. Essays from Peter Wilbery, Paul Green, William Sherman and John Lavery feature. A critical essay regarding Bill Griffiths is contributed by Eric Mottram, and a discussion of Frank Zappa's work provided by 'Out to Lunch' (Ben Watson). A response to David Miller's critique of Walter Benjamin, featured in 'Reality Studios' volume 4, is made by 'Out to Lunch', and a further reply from Miller also included.</p> <p>Review pieces are contributed by Miller (on Philip Jenkins), Tony Baker (on Geraldine Monk) and editor Ken Edwards. The cover art is the work of Bill Griffiths.</p> <p>1 file</p>	1983
U DRS/1/2	<p>'Reality Studios' volume 6, 'Interface'</p> <p>A published, final copy of 'Reality Studios' volume 6 (1984) - edited by Ken Edwards with advisory editors Allen Fisher and Paul Brown.</p> <p>Items include poetry from Fisher, Janet Sutherland, Alan Halsey, Tony Baker and Adrian Clarke; visual poetry from E.E. Vonna-Mitchell, Maggie O'Sullivan and Herbert Burke; an essay from J. Christopher Jones; and other writings from Clive Fencott and Steve Moore, Alan Davies, Charles Bernstein, and Peter Finch. Also included are published 'letters to the editor' from Mark Callan (bringing to a close the ongoing debate regarding Walter Benjamin, which spanned volumes 3 to 6 of 'Reality Studios') and Michelene Wandor (responding to Edwards' review of her anthology 'Upbeat', which can be found in 'Reality Studios' volume 5).</p> <p>Reviews also feature, including those by Peter Middleton on an anthology from the 'L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E' school; Fisher on Peter Seaton's 'The Son Master'; Paul Green on Keith Shein's 'Word Events'; Sylvia Paskin on Sutherland's 'Crossing Over';</p>	1984

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- U DRS/1/2
cont... 1984
Jay Ramsay on Keith Musgrove and Tony Lopez;
Robert Hampson on Michael Carlson and Guy Borchard;
Gillian Allnutt on Fisher; Jeremy Silver on Richard
Lanham and Graham Hartill, and Gunnar Harding; and
Edwards on Gavin Selerie and Pierre Joris.
1 item
- U DRS/1/3 1985
'Reality Studios' volume 7, 'The Inseam'
A published, final copy of 'Reality Studios' volume 7
(1985) - guest edited by Glenda George. This is a
special edition dealing primarily with issues of gender
and sexuality.
- Material includes poetry by George, Giselle Prassinis,
Maggie O'Sullivan, Bayla Winters, and Geraldine Monk;
satirical pieces from Mia Albright; a play-script by Paul
Buck; and additional writing from Jennifer Brawer, Saul
Yurkevich (translated by Cola Franzen), Janet Freeland,
Marina deBallagente LaPalma, and Betsy Adams.
- Reviews also feature, including those by Paul Green on
Hannah Weiner's 'Spoke'; Sarah Peel on Denise Riley;
Gillian Monk on Wendy Mulford's 'The A.B.C. of Writing
and Other Poems'; Lee Harwood on Michelene
Wandor's 'Garden of Eden'; Edwards on Mina Loy,
O'Sullivan, Diane Ward and Jean Daly; and Jeremy
Silver on Carlyle Reedy.
- Brief biographical information regarding a number of
contributors is present.
1 item
- U DRS/1/4 1986
'Reality Studios' volume 8
A published, final copy of 'Reality Studios' volume 8
(1986), edited by Ken Edwards.
- Features include poetry from Kelvin Corcoran, Douglas
Oliver, Wendy Mulford, Kate Ruse-Glason, Hazel Smith,
Paul Green, Lee Harwood, and Diane Ward; writing from
Bruce Andrews, Steve Benson, Rosmarie Waldrop,
Robert Sheppard and Nigel Wells; and a piece by
William Sherman on the poetry of Eric Mottram.
- Review pieces include those by Lee Harwood on
Corcoran's 'Red and Yellow Book'; Corcoran on Oliver's
'The Infant and the Pearl'; Maggie O'Sullivan on Barry
McSweeney's 'Ranter'; Andrew Mayfield on an
anthology of poetry by gay writers; Tony Baker on John
Seed and Bill Griffiths; Sheppard on Harwood; Peter
Riley on Rae Armantrout and Gail Sher; Green on Ted
Pearson; and Peter Finch on Jackson Mac Low.
1 file

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- U DRS/1/5 'Reality Studios' volume 8 (draft) 1986
Contains an entire pre-publication, un-bound version of 'Reality Studios' volume six in draft.
1 file
- U DRS/1/6 'Reality Studios' volume 9, 'Prose' 1987
A published, final copy of 'Reality Studios' volume 9 (1987).

Features include prose from Carlyle Reedy (from 'When Fox Was Judge'), Kathy Acjer (from 'Empire of the Senseless'), Peter Middleton, Stephen-Paul Martin ('Virgil Had No Balls'), Johan DeWit ('Dianetics'), Hannah Weiner ('Weeks') and John Wilkinson; poetry by David Chaloner, Bob Perelman, Peter Larkin and John Seed; and other writing from Gil Ott.

Reviews include Paul Brown on Paul Celan's 'Collected Prose'; Wilkinson on Wendy Mulford's 'Late Spring Next Year'; Peter Riley on Paul Haslam's 'Continued Song'; Denise Barone on Ott's 'Traffic'; and Janet Sutherland on Gillian Allnutt's 'Beginning the Avocado'.
1 item.
- U DRS/1/7 'Reality Studios' volume 9, 'Prose' (draft) 1987
Contains a pre-publication, un-bound version of 'Reality Studios' volume nine in draft.
1 file
- U DRS/1/8 'Reality Studios' volume 10, 'Final Number' 1988
A published, final copy of 'Reality Studios' volume 10 (1988). This was the last volume of the journal produced. It was also the first edition of the magazine to be typeset by computer.

Items include poetry from Allen Fisher, Wendy Mulford, Cris Cheek, John Wilkinson, Andrew Lawson, R.G. Hampson, Drake Stutesman, Clemens Rettich, Peter Derous, Keith Jebb, Larry Price and Graham Hartill.

Reviews include Simon Smith on Anthony Barnett's 'The Resting Bell'; Douglas Oliver on Rudy Burckhardt and Simon Pettet's 'Conversations with Rudy Burckhardt'; Mulford on '(HOW)ever', a new women's poetry journal; Peter Middleton on Barrett Watten's 'Progress'; Gilbert Adair on Bruce Andrews' 'Give 'em Enough Rope'; Tony Baker on Tom Lowenstein's 'Filibustering on Sarwarm'; Fisher on the 'A Various Art' anthology; and Lee Harwood on Ric Caddel.

The cover art is provided by Jeremy Adler.
1 item

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U DRS/1/9	<p>'Reality Studios' volume 10, 'Final Number' (draft) Contains a pre-publication, un-bound, incomplete version of 'Reality Studios' volume ten in draft.</p> <p>This version of the volume omits all reviews appearing in volume ten, and also Ken Edwards' closing 'Valediction' comments.</p> <p>1 file</p>	1988
U DRS/2	Correspondence 10 files	1978-1988
U DRS/2/1	<p>'Reality Studios' volumes 1-3: Letters, correspondence and manuscripts. Containing manuscripts later published in the first three volumes of 'Reality Studios', and letters to the editor sent by contributors regarding these submissions.</p> <p>Those contributing include Allen Fisher, Eric Mottram, Robert Sheppard, David Miller, Clive Fencott, Kris Hennesley, James Sherry, Charles Bernstein, Tony Jackson, Boudewijn Wagerif, Ray di Palma, Paul Green, Opal Louis Nations, Paula Claire, Carlyle Reedy, Richard Tabor, Lawrence Wassaname and Lynn Moore.</p> <p>The bulk of these contributions consist of poetry and related writings, though some works of criticism and review are featured. Writers discussed by those contributing include Gilbert Sorrentino, Clive Faust, Philip Jenkins, Peter Halsey, Benny McSweeney, William Corbett, Tom Phillips, Jeff Instone, Colin Simms, Lyn Hejinian, Charles Bernstein, Ron Silliman, Jeff Nuttall and Arthur Rimbaud.</p> <p>Correspondence includes that between Ken Edwards and a former 'Guardian' journalist.</p> <p>1 file</p>	1978-1987
U DRS/2/2	<p>'Reality Studios' volume 4: Letters, correspondence and manuscripts. Containing manuscripts later published in volume four of 'Reality Studios' (a 'special quadruple edition' published in 1982); letters to the editor sent by contributors regarding these submissions and related material. Poetry and related writings are provided by Jason Weiss, Herbert Burke, Gilbert Adair, Paige Mitchell, Maggie O'Sullivan, Carlyle Reedy, Rosmarie Waldrop and Marina La Palma. Others contributing include Peter Middleton (with an essay on Allen Fisher); Jeremy Adler and Allen Fisher (each with an essay) and David Miller (with a piece critiquing the work of Walter Benjamin).</p>	1982

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- U DRS/2/2
cont... 1982
- A small number of reviews include an item by Andrew Mayfield regarding William Burroughs; Reedy on Cris Cheek; Green on Max Douglas; and shorter reviews by Fisher, Middleton and Victoria Plum.
- There is also a transcript of conversations between editor Ken Edwards and E.E. Vonna-Mitchell, which were published in 'Reality Studios'.
- Correspondence between Edwards and (separately) Adair and Adler is also featured.
1 file
- U DRS/2/3 1982
- Visual poetry by Herbert Burke and related letter
Two collections of visual poetry by Herbert Burke, sent to Edwards but not intended for publication in 'Reality Studios'. These are entitled 'Stone Door Posts' and 'A Bit Gothhic'. A covering letter is included.
1 file
- U DRS/2/4 1983
- 'Reality Studios' volume 5: Letters, correspondence and manuscripts.
Containing manuscripts later published in volume five of 'Reality Studios' (1983); letters to the editor sent by contributors regarding these submissions and related material.
- Manuscripts present here are those which would later appear in published form as part of 'Reality Studios' volume 5.
- Correspondence between Ken Edwards and both David Miller and 'Out to Lunch' / Benjamin Watson, regarding the Benjamin pieces, are included.
- Letters sent by Edwards to both William Burroughs and Kathy Acker, promoting 'Reality Studios', are also present.
- There is in addition a press-clipping featuring a review of regular 'Reality Studios' contributor Paul Green's book, 'The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind'.
1 file

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- U DRS/2/5 'Reality Studios' volume 6: Letters, correspondence and manuscripts. 1984
- Containing manuscripts ultimately published as part of 'Reality Studios' volume six, letters to the editor sent by contributors regarding these submissions; correspondence between editor Ken Edwards and advisory editor Allen Fisher; and related material.
- Correspondence between Edwards and Fisher featuring candid comments on both accepted and rejected manuscripts is featured. Other correspondence includes that between Edwards and Burke, O'Sullivan, Gilbert Adair, Clarke, Davies and David Miller; and between Fisher and Adair.
- A brief letter from Edwards to the publisher of 'Reality Studios' is also present.
- Finally, two manuscripts not published in any issue of 'Reality Studios' are included. These include Davies' poem 'Unadorned ca. 78' and a prose poem by Jeremy Silver entitled 'Junction'.
- 1 file
- U DRS/2/6 'Reality Studios' volume 7: Letters, correspondence and manuscripts. 1985
- Containing manuscripts later published in volume seven of 'Reality Studios' (1985); letters to the series editor Ken Edwards sent by contributors regarding these submissions; correspondence between Edwards and guest editor Glenda George; and related material.
- Unlike previous volumes, manuscripts here are largely presented without accompanying letters or notes.
- Correspondence between Edwards and George regarding the content and publication of the volume is present, as is brief correspondence between Edwards and contributor Paul Green.
- Brief letters to Edwards from a small number of contributors are present, including Harwood, Winters, Allnutt and Peel.
- 1 file

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- U DRS/2/7 'Reality Studios' volume 8: Letters, correspondence and manuscripts. 1986
Containing manuscripts later published in volume eight of 'Reality Studios' (1986); correspondence between editor Ken Edwards and contributors regarding submissions and manuscripts; and related material.
Brief correspondences between Edwards and contributors and other figures, including Mac Low, Oliver, Smith, Sherman and Middleton also feature.
The manuscript for Wendy Mulford's long poem 'The East Anglian Sequence' contains material not published in 'Reality Studios'. Two poems by Middleton, apparently unpublished in 'Reality Studios', are also included.
Present also are a review of 'Reality Studios' contributor Douglas Oliver's book 'The Infant and the Pearl', printed in 'The London Review of Books', and rough notes made by Edwards regarding publication of this volume.
1 file
- U DRS/2/8 'Reality Studios' volume 8 (ii): Material related to an interview with Peter Riley. 1986
Contains material relating to an interview with Peter Riley, conducted by Kelvin Corcoran and published in volume 8 of Reality Studios (and also as a 'Reality Studios' 'occasional paper' - see U DRS/3/2 for details of this).
Present are two draft transcripts of the interview, as well as a rather lengthy correspondence between Ken Edwards, Corcoran and Riley.
1 file
- U DRS/2/9 'Reality Studios' volume 9: Letters, correspondence and manuscripts. 1987
Containing manuscripts later published in volume nine of 'Reality Studios' (1987); letters to editor Ken Edwards from contributors regarding submissions and manuscripts; and related material.
A number of letters to Edwards are entries to the 'Reality Studios' readers' poll (regarding the most important poetry anthologies of the 1980s). A circular sent by Edwards to subscribers is also present, as is brief correspondence between Edwards and Riley.
1 file

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U DRS/2/10	<p>'Reality Studios' volumes 10: Letters, correspondence and manuscripts.</p> <p>Containing manuscripts later published in volume ten of 'Reality Studios' (1988); correspondence between editor Ken Edwards and contributors and other figures; and related material.</p> <p>Much unused visual art by Jeremy Adler (who provided the cover art for this volume) is also present here. Also included are some visual poems of Adler's not published in 'Reality Studios'.</p> <p>Very brief correspondence between Edwards and J.H. Prynne is present, as Edwards invites Prynne to review Fisher's 'Brixton Fractals', and Prynne declines.</p> <p>Some poems by Lee Harwood, apparently unpublished in 'Reality Studios' are also featured.</p> <p>A flyer for the John Wilkinson anthology 'Bones of Contention' is included, as are both a draft cover and track-listing for German audio poetry anthology 'Lautpoetrie'.</p> <p>1 file</p>	1988
U DRS/3	Occasional Papers 4 files	[1980s]
U DRS/3/1	<p>Occasional Papers: Miscellaneous.</p> <p>Containing manuscripts, correspondence and rough notes relating to some 'occasional papers' published by 'Reality Studios'. These include:</p> <p>The short anthology 'The Orange Notebook' by Carlyle Reedy. A manuscript of this work, which was published in February 1984, is present.</p> <p>Gregory Stephenson's bibliography of Brion Gysin, 'A preliminary checklist of works by Brion Gysin'. Brief correspondence related to this is also present. This work was published in 1985 as 'Reality Studios occasional paper number 1'.</p> <p>Eric Mottram's essay 'A Reading of Thomas Meyer's First Ten Years'. Material related to this work includes correspondence; a draft manuscript dated 1984; and a later pre-publication draft produced the following year. This work was published in 1985 as 'Reality Studios occasional paper number 2'.</p> <p>The transcript of an interview with Peter Riley conducted</p>	1984-1986

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- U DRS/3/1
cont... by Kelvin Corcoran. There is also correspondence (dated 1985) between Edwards and Corcoran regarding this. A transcript of the interview was published under the title 'Spitewinter Provocations: An Interview on the Condition of Poetry with Peter Riley' in 1986 as 'Reality Studios occasional paper number 4'. A version of this interview was also published in 'Reality Studios' volume 8; material relating to this can be found in U DRS/2/8.
1 file 1984-1986
- U DRS/3/2 Occasional Papers: Ken Edwards, 'The We Expression: The First Person Plural in Poetry'. Contains material relating to Ken Edwards' talk/essay entitled 'The We Expression: The First Person Plural in Poetry'. Transcripts of the talk, first given in 1984, are present. The first transcript was produced in that year; the second pre-publication draft is from 1985. Material also includes Edwards' rough notes made whilst preparing the talk, and correspondence with both Tony Baker and Mark Callan discussing the reading.

Two articles used as source material by Edwards - Jean-Francois Lyotard's 'The Différend, the Referent and the Proper Name' and 'The Human Body as Philosophical Paradigm in Whitehead and Merleau-Ponty' by Raymond J. Devetterre (Philosophy Today, Winter 1976) - are also present. A transcript of Edwards' talk was published in 1985 as 'Reality Studios occasional paper number 3'.
1 file. 1984-1985
- U DRS/3/3 Occasional Papers: 'Out to Lunch' / Ben Watson, 'So Much Plotted Freedom: The Cost of Employing the Language of Fetishized Domination' 1987
Containing an essay by 'Out to Lunch' / Ben Watson entitled 'So Much Plotted Freedom: The Cost of Employing the Language of Fetishized Domination'. Correspondence relating to this, between Edwards and Watson, features; as does a pre-publication draft manuscript.

This work was published in 1987 as 'Reality Studios occasional paper number 5'.
1 file
- U DRS/3/4 Occasional Papers: Unpublished material. [1980s]
Containing material not published in 'Reality Studios'. Amongst this is the manuscript of an Ernest M. Robson essay entitled 'Notation for Sound Poetry'; a number of poems by Noel Rooney; and a large collection of poems by Bill Sherman
1 file