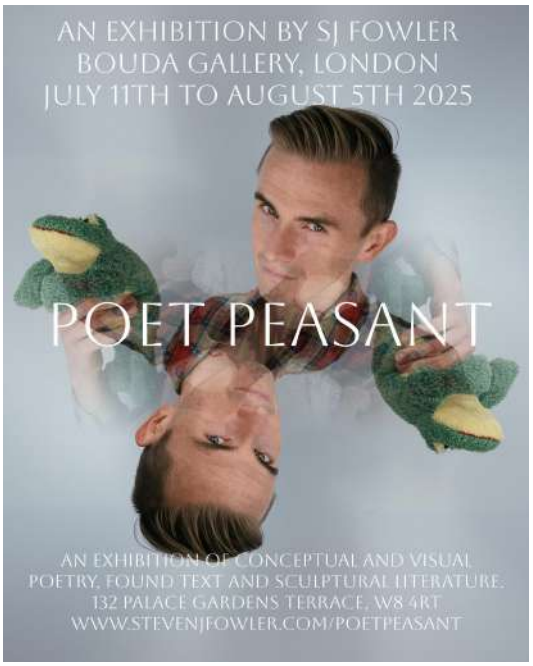
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

https://www.stevenjfowler.com/poetpeasant

Announcing: *Poet Peasant,* an exhibition by ***S.J. Fowler***

Czech Centre's Bouda Gallery, *situated on the side of the former* ***Notting Hill Books****, lends its space to its first* ***Summer Artistic Residency****, hosting two different visual poetry exhibitions by British-based poets, writers, and performers.*
The project aims to follow up on the tradition of the beloved former book shop to provide a save and formative space for the local artistic community.



Steven J. Fowler is happy to announce ***Poet Peasant***:
An exhibition of poetry as curios, discovered text and found literary sculptures drawn from previously unseen works, selected asemic writing and the poetic props of performances across the globe. Drawing from fifteen years of rabid activity, this exhibition evidences the breadth of visual and conceptual poetry from one of the definitive experimentalists of the British 21st century literary scene. On the site of the former Notting Hill Books, a formative space for many, including Fowler, this exhibition emphasises the potential of the marginal, peculiar, detritus-as-poetry mode so removed from the medium's stereotypical obsession with neatness, craft and clarity. From bear suits to homemade skeletons, handwritten novels to concrete poems, *Poet Peasant* represents some of the core aesthetic concerns of SJ Fowler - playful, eclectic and anti-singular, it is a deliberate mess of fun and weird visual literature that stretches the bounds of what poetry is.

Taking place in ***The Bouda Gallery****,* Notting Hill, at **132 Palace Gardens Terrace, W8 4RT,** open **July 11th – August 5th.** Admission is *Free*, as is attendance to all events.

Events:

- **Poet Peasant –** Opening event and special view, **July Thursday 24th**: **6PM Start**
  - Readings and literary performances, a chance to see the exhibition after hours. With new live works from *Cameron Wade*, *Eleanor Wilders*, *Danica Ignacio*, *Matthew Sokulsky*, *Rushika Wick*, *Jonathan Boyd*, plus *Colin Herd* and *SJ Fowler* (who will be reading from Oberwildling a collaborative poetry collection with a poem for each year of Oskar Kokoscha's life, on the 10 Year anniversary of it's publication, with copies gifted to the audience.)

- **Sound Peasant Poets –** Performance and collaboration event, **July Saturday 26th**: **2PM Start.**

- An balmy afternoon event in the gallery celebrating the *sound sonic vocalised talking improvised* in live poetry and duets between writers and musicians. Featuring *Benedict Taylor* and *SJ Fowler*, *Victor Rees*, *Sophia Rahim*, *Vanessa Onwuemezi* and *SJ Fowler*, and many more to be confirmed.

- **Cosgrovia!** – The launch of *Patrick Cosgrove's* Selected Poems, **July Thursday 31st: 6PM Start.**
  - Without exaggeration one of the UK's most original and influential poets and performers, ***Patrick Cosgrove***'s remarkable and original work is celebrated with the book launch of his selected poems, ***Cosgrovia*****,** from Steel Incisors Press. Alongside Patrick's performance to share the book there will be readings from some of the poets whose work he has influenced, including *Stephen Sunderland, Lisa Blackwell, Ailsa Holland, Cameron Wade, Bob T Bright, Martin Wakefield, Simon Tyrrell, Beverly Frydman.*

- **Film Poetry** – **August Saturday 2nd: 2PM Start.**
  - **Featuring:** *David Spittle's* 'Gift of the Gab', *Vilde Bjerke Torset's* 'Samso', and more to be announced.

S.J. Fowler is a writer, poet and performer who lives in London. His work has been commissioned by The National Gallery, Tate Modern, BBC Radio 3, Somerset House, Tate Britain, Southbank Centre and he was part of the first Hub residency at Wellcome Collection. His visual poetry has been exhibited at the V&A, Hayward Gallery, Jerwood Space, Mile End Art Pavilion, Kielder Forest, Tate St Ives and Palais de Tokyo. He has published over 50 works, the subject of the Small Publishers Fair 2022 feature exhibition and given over 400 performances at venues around the world. He lecturs at Kingston University and is the director of the European Poetry Festival. *Poet Peasant …* is his 8th solo exhibition.

The exhibition is part of the Czech Centre's Summer Artistic Residency — a pilot project offering a safe and supportive space for local artists and the community. Part of *Safe Spaces Out There and Within*, a network initiative organised by the Czech Centres.

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