





derek beaulieu  
give er

21 years ago, I published my first chapbook. A collaborative edition with a then friend in Brampton, Ontario, *William S.*

*Burroughs: Ghost of Steel* was produced in an edition of 26 signed copies. Each page was designed and laid out in MS Publisher, printed at home, folded and inserted into hand-printed covers and sewn using needle and thread. Most copies were given away, I haven't seen one in years.

**That same format  
– printed at home,  
folded and assembled  
by hand, sewn and  
given away – has  
remained my modus  
operandi ever since.**

***William S. Burroughs:  
Ghost of Steel***

**became the first of  
268 editions that I  
published through the  
housepress imprint,  
followed by over 300  
more under No Press.**

**For 21 years  
I've averaged  
a publication  
every two weeks  
– each one  
made by hand  
as a means of  
distributing  
the news to  
a fluctuating  
community of  
readers.**

**In my opinion  
writing is a public  
act, we must learn  
(even the most  
introverted of us)  
to share our work  
with a readership.  
See our work as  
worth sharing, our  
voices as worth  
hearing. It doesn't  
have to be a huge  
public gesture; it  
could be 10 copies  
among friends.  
Share.**

**There are a growing number of online print-on-demand publishers like Lulu and Blurb, and many photocopy shops will do collation and binding – but those are far from the only options. Anyone who has a desktop printer or access to a photocopier (or a typewriter, or a silkscreen or rubberstamp letters or any number of intriguing possibilities) can produce her own work. Paper, printer, stapler, scissors.**



**A challenge to my  
peers: publish your  
own work. Start a  
small press. Find  
the material that  
your colleagues  
are making that  
impresses you  
and publish it  
in pamphlets,  
in leaflets, in  
chapbooks and  
broadsides, posters  
and ephemera.**

**It is all too easy to  
rely on other people  
to do the work for  
you – to allow the  
means of distribution  
to remain with book  
publishers, magazines  
and journals.**

**Small press builds  
community through  
gifts and exchange,  
through consideration  
and generosity,  
through the creative  
interplay and  
dialogue with each  
other's work.**

**Small press publishing allows authors to present their work in a way that physically responds to the content – texture, size, shape, colour and binding all become aesthetic decisions that the author herself can shape.**

**The internet  
is rife with  
instructions  
on how to  
hand bind  
books. Make  
stuff, hand  
it out, talk  
to people.**

**You  
are  
out of  
excuse  
s.**





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