

information as material

York, England / www.informationasmaterial.org

information as material is proud to present Nick Thurston's new book, *Of the Subcontract, Or Principles of Poetic Right* (144pp, 130x190mm, ISBN: 978-1-907468-18-6). It features a foreword by McKenzie Wark and an afterword by Darren Wershler. This first edition of 500 copies will be distributed internationally from August 2013 by Cornerhouse (Manchester) and has been agented by Coach House Books (Toronto).

"The first 'computers' were people, hired to do the tedious work of creating accounting systems and tax roles for the administration of newly created bureaucratic structures in post-Revolutionary France. *Of the Subcontract* presents the poems of their descendants. While this imaginative project extends a line of conceptualist practice that shows us how forms of aesthetic expression take root in the broader culture and what the continuum of amateur and professional work is, it also shows us how poetic acts, like other modes of production, conceal the contradictions and inequities of labour and value in a global world."

—Johanna Drucker, artist, author and Bernard Breslauer Professor of Bibliography, UCLA

"In an expanded field of writing Nick Thurston is changing the literary landscape. Unlike Francis Alÿs' workers, who were moving mountains in the desert by shovelling sand, Thurston's underpaid writers are moving (one spadeful at a time) Robert Smithson's heap of language from one place to another, leaving us with language to be looked at / things to be read."

—Kenneth Goldsmith, poet and founding Editor of UbuWeb

Of the Subcontract is a collection of poems about computational capitalism, each of which was written by an underpaid worker subcontracted through Amazon.com's Mechanical Turk service. The collection is ordered according to cost-of-production and repurposes metadata about the efficiency of each writer to generate informatic typographic embellishments. Those one hundred poems are braced between two newly commissioned essays; the whole book is threaded with references to Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Wolfgang von Kempelen, and the emerging iconography of cloud living.

Of the Subcontract reverses out of the database-driven digital world of new labour pools into poetry's black box: the book. It reduces the poetic imagination to exploited labour and, equally, elevates artificial intelligence to the status of the poetic. In doing so, it explores the all-too-real changes that are reforming every kind of work, each day more quickly, under the surface of life.

& Model Gallery (Leeds), in conjunction with the Hannah Mitchell Foundation, will present a solo exhibition by Nick Thurston entitled 'Pretty Brutal Library' on themes relating to *Of the Subcontract* from July 25–August 31, 2013. Please contact Derek Horton at the Gallery for details: info@andmodel.com.

Nick Thurston is the author or co-author of four previous books, the most recent of which is being translated into French, German, Italian and Spanish. He has exhibited across Europe and North America, and his artworks are held in public and private collections internationally. In 2012 he took up a post at the University of Leeds, England.

McKenzie Wark is the author of numerous articles and books about cultural history and critical and new media theory. He is currently Professor of Media and Cultural Studies at The New School in New York, USA.

Darren Wershler is a non-fiction writer whose various books range from poetry to cultural criticism. He currently holds the Concordia University Research Chair in Media and Contemporary Literature in Montreal, Canada.

information as material was established in 2002 to publish works by artists who use extant material – selecting it and reframing it – and who, in doing so, disrupt the existing order of things.

For any further info please contact Simon Morris: simon@informationasmaterial.org

To order copies:

Cornerhouse Publications, 70 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 5NH, England;
Tel: (+44)161 2001503 / Fax: (+44)161 2001504 / Email: publications@cornerhouse.org
Coach House Books, 80 bpNichol Lane, Toronto, ON, M5S 3J4, Canada;
Tel: (+1)416 9792217 / Fax: (+1)416 9771158 / Email: mail@chbooks.com