

Art

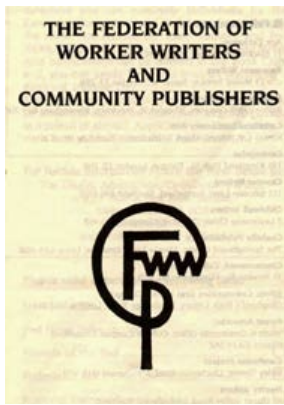
Visual art and creative writing made by disenfranchised groups is a common theme within the *Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers* (FWWCP), now recognized under a new name, TheFED. Groups focused on these creative endeavors have been active within the FWWCP since its inception, and the network has, in turn, been active in publishing these works.



Images by John Joseph Sheehy
from *River Boy*

Such visual art by disenfranchised groups is in the monthly *Federation Magazine*, as well as throughout many publications by individual writers. Women writers and artists have traditionally been underserved and are represented here with several collections of poetry, short stories, and art.

One of the creatives now part of TheFED is John Joseph Sheehy, who came to the group via *The Big Issue* when he suffered from homelessness in his fifties, now nearly twenty years ago. Sheehy was assisted through art and writing workshops that *The Big Issue* held and has had several collections published. The FWWCP Collection also contains donated sketchbooks and journals of Sheehy's work.



Drowned in Overspill

Caroline Gilfillan, 2000

FWWCPC/01 NW 07

This book cover is lavender with a graphic text title, and the back cover contains a black and white photograph of the author. This collection of poems won the Crocus North West Poetry Pamphlet Competition, 2007. The poems contain themes of marriage, illness, love, and loss.

Keywords: illness | loss | love | marriage | poetry | relationship | women

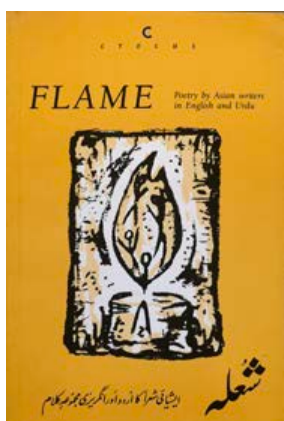
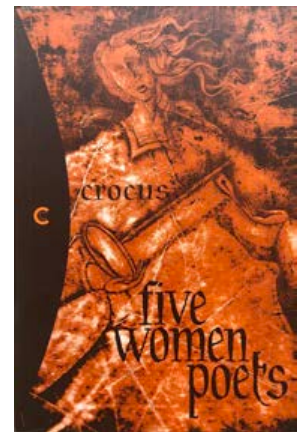
Five Women Poets: Poetry by Women Writers

Pat Winslow, et al., 1993

FWWCPC/01 NW 07

The community publishing co-operative Commonword announced a call for submissions, resulting in this book of poems. The book is softbound with cover artwork in colour of a figure of a woman holding a key. The poems focus on themes from everyday life, hope, humour, optimism, childhood memories, and interpretations of historical moments. One poem, "Song of the Woman Past Forty," laments women who succumb to the societal pressures and associated costs of beauty treatments to retain a youthful look.

Keywords: ageism | body image | childhood | family | humour | poetry | women | working-class



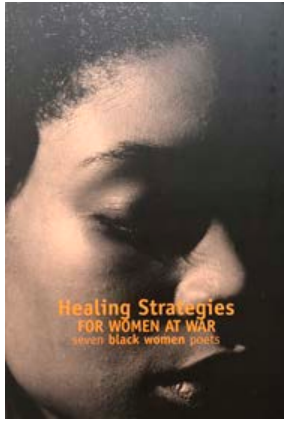
Flame: a Collection of Poetry by Asian writers in English and Urdu

Commonword, 1991

FWWCPC/01 NW 07

This bilingual text is a small, bound book with a golden yellow cover which is inset with a work of art. The book contains a publisher's note, a translator's note, poetry, and then concludes with a few paragraphs about each of the fifteen contributors as well as the not-for-profit organisation, Commonword. The poems describe the difficulties faced by the writers in their home countries, as both refugees and as immigrants.

Keywords: anthology | art | bilingual | migration | poetry | refugee | Urdu



Healing Strategies for Women at War

Seven Black Women Poets, 1999

FWWCPC/01 NW 07

Healing Strategies for Women at War is an anthology that gives voice to those who normally do not get published. It contains poems from five Black British women and includes themes of identity, displacement, family, and more. The cover of this book contains a greyscale photograph of a woman in shadow with downcast eyes.

Keywords: Black British | family | identity | immigrant | sexuality | war | women | working-class

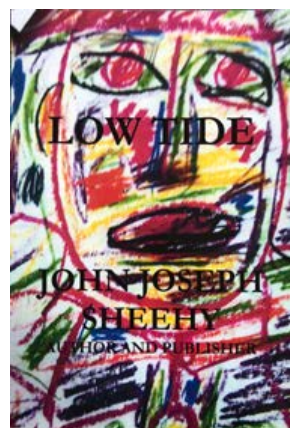
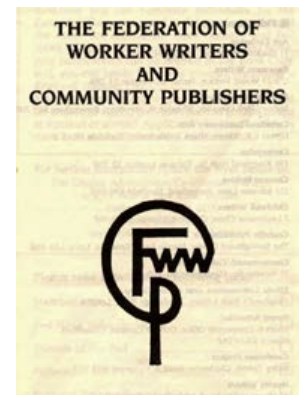
Home Truths: Writing by North West Women

HOME TRUTHS, no date

FWWCPC/01 NW 07

This is a collection of poetry, short stories, drawings, and photographs by the Manchester-based women's writing group HOME TRUTHS, which was started by workers from Commonword. The cover of the book is a collage of black and white photographs by Phil Boyd, and the title in green text. Themes of domestic life, nature, emotions, and more from twelve women writers are included. A very brief biography is included in the back of the book.

Keywords: anthology | art | domestic | drawing | family | illustration | non-fiction | poetry | women



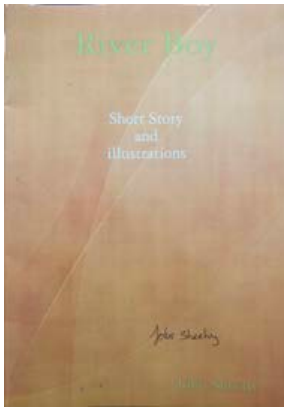
Low Tide

John Joseph Sheehy, no date

FWWCPC/08 L 13

Low Tide is a softcover book of poetry and prose by John Joseph Sheehy. It was donated and signed by the author/artist. The book cover contains a colourful drawing of a figure done by the author/artist. The short book contains poetic themes of nature, celebrations of holidays, and moments from everyday life. An example of a poem is "I'm Writing Directly on the Computer Now," which blends stream-of-consciousness writing with a witty sense of humour.

Keywords: abstract expressionism | drawing | humour | painting | poetry | watercolour



River Boy: Short Story and Illustrations

John Joseph Sheehy,
2008

FWWCPC/08 L 13

A softcover children's book written and published May 2008. There are multiple large, colourful illustrations contained within the pages to break up the large-sized text. The short book launches straight into the story of a little boy who lives in the Irish countryside with his mum, whom he observes milking the family cow. It is a coming of age story as the boy grows to learn how to milk the family cow using pop songs, instead of traditional songs.

Keywords: art | childhood | drawing | farm life | Ireland | story | watercolour

Sketchbook #1: paintings and drawings

John Joseph Sheehy, no
date

FWWCPC/08 L 13

This sketchbook is hardbound with a black cover and measures 29.5 cm x 21 cm. The sketchbook contains watercolour paintings, acrylic paintings, marker and pencil drawings. Some pages contain a combination of media. Some images are abstract, and some are line drawings of people.

Keywords: abstract expressionism | acrylic | drawing | graphite | line drawing | mixed media | watercolour



Sketchbook #2: paintings and drawings

John Joseph Sheehy,
2010

FWWCPC/08 L 13

This sketchbook is hardbound with a black cover and closes with an attached black elastic band. The book measures 30 cm x 21 cm. The inside cover contains a drawing of a pair of figures. The first page contains drawings of children, faces of adults and a donkey, all under a sun with rays shining through a cloud. The rest of the sketchbook contains watercolour paintings, acrylic paintings, marker, and pencil drawings. Some pages contain a combination of media.

Keywords: abstract expressionism | acrylic | graphite | line drawing | mixed media | painting | watercolour



Skylight Times Crisis Members Magazine, Issue 10

Multiple authors, Spring
2012

FWWCP/08 L 13

A small, stapled periodical produced quarterly by the Skylight Times staff. There are fourteen contributors to Issue 10. The cover features a colour painting by Christopher Orlowsky. Inside are essays and poetry with many companion photos or works of art, some of which are made by the contributing artist/author. The back cover contains a list of contributors and a colour photo of Keith Harris standing alongside a large painting he made.

Keywords: abstract expressionism | crisis center | disability | mental health | photography