
Issues of Contemporary Aesthetics
PAMPHLET SERIES

JIM MEIROSE
EXPERIMENTAL DISCOURSE:
A Productive Labor

AMERICAN CHAPBOOKS
Reconfiguring Literary and Artistic Prestige

HAL: Heuristic Algorithmic Library
An Imprint of OJAL Art Incorporated

Copyright © 2026 by HAL: *Heuristic Algorithmic Library*
An imprint of OPEN: *Journal of Arts & Letters* (O:JA&L)

All rights reserved on behalf of OJAL Art Incorporated, O:JA&L and its various imprints.

Publishing since 2017 as OPEN: *Journal of Arts & Letters* (O:JA&L) and its imprints
Buttonhook Press, HOT BUTTON PRESS *Contemporary Issues*,
HIGH BUTTON PRESS *Contemporary Art*, Dally Post Press: *Cowboy Poetry*,
HAL: *Heuristic Algorithmic Library* and FIREFIGHT PRESS: *Trench Art*
OJAL Art Incorporated serves artists and writers worldwide.

HAL
Heuristic Algorithmic Library
An imprint of OPEN: *Journal of Arts & Letters* (O:JA&L)

HAL is the O:JA&L imprint featuring AI-assisted discourse.

Formatted in Create Space.
Set in Garamond and GARAMOND ALLCAPS.

Made available online and/or printed in the USA and elsewhere
as a novelty and commemorative document
celebrating the publication of O:JA&L's PDF pamphlet.

This project was made possible, in part, through support from
[Grayling and Wraith](#), a growth marketing company.



Image: *I'm Sorry, Dave #5* (AI-assisted digital image) by O:JA&L staff creative. 2025. Public domain via MidJourney AI.

JIM MEIROSE
Experimental Discourse: *A Productive Labor*

JIM MEIROSE

EXPERIMENTAL DISCOURSE:
A Productive Labor

HAL: *Heuristic Algorithmic Library*
An imprint of O:J&L

JIM MEIROSE: A CRITICAL ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

[Jim Meirose](#)'s short fiction has appeared in leading journals, and his novels include *Sunday Dinner with Father Dwyer* (Optional Books), *Understanding Franklin Thompson* (JEF), *Le Overgivers au Club de la Résurrection* (Mannequin Haus), and *No and Maybe - Maybe and No* (Pski's Porch).

In the sphere of **Experimental Discourse (XP)** at OPEN: Journal of Arts & Letters (O:JA&L), Jim Meirose emerges as a distinctive figure whose work systematically rejects conventional narrative tools in favor of what he terms “complementary realities.” His portfolio and featured chapbook at O:JA&L serve as both a critique of mainstream fiction and a challenge to contemporary experimental trends that rely on wordplay or overt authorial editorializing.

CORE PHILOSOPHY

“THE TIMELINE OF COMPLEMENTARY REALITIES”

Meirose’s theoretical stance is articulated in his craft essay, “Experimental Storytelling: The Timeline of Complementary Realities”. He distinguishes his approach from standard “writing,” which he regards as a mere storytelling tool rather than an artistic end in itself. Key philosophical positions include:

Rejection of “Experimental” Labels: Meirose critiques the contemporary use of “experimental,” arguing that it often produces works resembling journalism or autobiography rather than genuine fiction.

Fiction vs. Editorialization: He opposes prose that primarily expresses the author’s personal viewpoints or emotions, labeling such work as “editorialization” rather than authentic storytelling.

The Struggle for Sense: His oeuvre persistently explores the human quest for meaning in a nonsensical world, emphasizing resilience in the face of repeated existential failure.

STYLISTIC FEATURES AND KEY WORKS

Meirose’s portfolio at O:J&L is notable for its use of **Flash Experimental Discourse**, marked by fragmented imagery and a focus on surreal or internal perceptions. Representative works include:

"An Appreciation for Statuary": Set in a cemetery, this piece juxtaposes inanimate objects and human perception, using shifting speeds (e.g., a speedometer jumping from 0 to 50 while the car remains stationary) to illustrate a breakdown of physical reality.

"AWK, TINKER": A primary example of experimental flash fiction, highlighting fragmentation and linguistic play.

"OFF'N 'OME ANALYSTICLE PROLE": Demonstrates non-standard syntax and phonetic experimentation to create atmosphere.

"*I LIKE THE CEMETERY*": Described as a "frolic through the perceptions of a gregarious bibliophilic taphophile".

CRITIQUE OF FORM AND DISCOURSE

Critical reception, such as Warwick Newnham's review of "Sunday Dinner with Father Dwyer", identifies recurring themes:

Existential Parallelism: Meirose's writing often features disparate worlds and characters in near-collapse, frequently set against industrial decay or polluted environments.

The Functionary Human: Humanity is depicted as subservient to larger, impersonal systems (e.g., AI, profit-driven motives).

Search for Extremis Meaning: Narratives tend toward a "cold black emptiness," compelling readers to seek logic or faith where the text offers little guidance.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND INTENT

Meirose's commitment to experimental discourse is reflected in his rigorous daily writing and editing routine. He views experimental writing as a productive labor, not a sporadic burst of inspiration, and prefers the title "storyteller" over "writer," likening the latter to calling an architect a "draftsman." His linguistic tools are deployed to construct complex fictional realities.

SIGNIFICANCE: THEORETICAL AND CANONICAL

1. *Reclamation of Fiction from Artifice*: Meirose stands apart from meta-fictional trends that foreground the artificiality of narrative. He rejects self-conscious fragmentation, instead using experimental techniques to build immersive, surreal worlds.

2. *Resistance to Editorializing*: In contrast to the political or autobiographical bent of much experimental discourse, Meirose insists on the autonomy of the text, advocating for "pure" narrative that exists independently of authorial ego or social context.

3. *Structural Innovation: The "Living" Text*: Drawing on traditions established by Samuel Beckett and Franz Kafka, Meirose removes the hierarchy between protagonist and setting, creating “non-Euclidean narrative space” where conflicting realities coexist.

COMPARATIVE CONTEXT

A comparative table highlights Meirose’s divergence from other experimental movements:

Movement	Approach	Meirose's Critique/Divergence
POSTMODERNISM	Irony, self-reference, and play	Too “surface-level,” distracts from core story
AUTOFICTION	Blurring author/narrator distinction	“Editorializing,” not true creative construction
MEIROSE’S “XP”	Building multiple, conflicting realities	Focus on structural integrity over cleverness

CONCLUSION

ACADEMIC SIGNIFICANCE

Jim Meirose functions as a **formalist stabilizer** in experimental literature. His work demonstrates that experimental writing need not be about language itself, but can instead evoke the chaotic, beautiful experience of reality’s fragmentation. For Meirose, the “experiment” is not the goal; rather, it is the reader’s experience that matters most.

REFERENCES

All information and analysis are drawn from the selected content in the Document provided, which synthesizes Meirose’s theoretical essays, critical reviews, and portfolio works at OPEN: Journal of Arts & Letters.

BUTTONHOOK PRESS PAMPHLET SERIES

2020

[Safe Spaces: A Pretty Lie](#)

Editorials on Issues of Poetic Practice by Rachel Custer

[Against Art as a Radical Subjectivity](#)

Editorials on Issues of Poetic Practice by Rachel Custer

[Songs on the Way to God: A Theory of Poetics](#)

Editorials on Issues of Poetic Practice by Rachel Custer

[The Artistic Power of Silence: On Letting Art Speak for Itself](#)

Editorials on Issues of Poetic Practice by Rachel Custer

[Special Edition: Experimental Discourse](#)

...are serious offenses, and...

A closet drama in two acts by Anthony Hamilton

[How to Love a Headstone](#)

Poetry by Sloane Asakura

[The Last of the Gallants](#)

Poetry by Atar Hadari

2021

[Salt](#)

Poetry by Amanda Leal

[Deer in Fog at Twilight Near Squalicum Lake Road](#)

Poetry by Richard Widerkehr

[Democracy has Lifted Up Its Voice](#)

Poetry by Mike Puican

[2YC Review: The Works](#)

Poetry and prose by members of the Two-Year College Caucus at AWP

[Promises](#)

Poetry by Ellis Elliott

[Home](#)

Poetry by Amanda Leal

[Study of Burkas](#)

A poem by Dana Sonnenschein

[The Open Window](#)

Flash vignettes by O.G. Rose

[Light in the Cathedral: Russian/English Poems](#)

Poetry in two languages by Andrey Gritsman

2022

[Poems for Families](#)

Poetry by Kirby Olson

Mogollon Rim

Poetry by Allisa Cherry

Hanno

Poetry by John-Michael Bloomquist

Poem scrawled on a maize-sheaf for her (last offering)

Poetry and art by Arturo Desimone

The Curve of the Open Page

A poem by Bruce Bond

Murder in the House: The "Nutshells" of Frances Glessner Lee

Poetry by Jessica Purdy

War and Riff

Haibun by Keith Polette

Family Photo of America

Poetry by Lynn Potts

Chester River Reverie

Poetry by Priscilla Long

Salton Sea

A short story by Mike Murray

The Fiddler

Poetry by Tim Hunt

A Balloon Called *Young America*

Poetry by Jennifer Clark

High Fashion

Featured Collaboration

Poetry by Adjei Agyei-Baah & Fine Art Photography by Jerome Berglund

2023

Rain Comes to the Central Valley

Poetry by Adrienne Pilon

DECIDUOUS

Poetry by Jean Kane

Potter's Valley Road

Poetry (Americana) by Richard Widerkehr

Old Barn *or* How Things Go On

Poetry by Penelope Schotte

Nothing To Be Sorry For

Poetry by Lynn Cohen

Small Lantern

Featured Haiga Collaborations

Haiku: Hassane Zemmouri and Photography: Megali Bretou & Bea Bauer

A Sport and a Pastime

Haiku (Americana) by Ron Scully

Night Train

Haiku by Jerome Gagnon

The Aquarian Foundation

Poetry (Americana) by Jeffrey Gray

Once There Was a Way

Poetry by Steve Myers

Local Habitations

Poetry by Edison Jennings

Occasions for Listening (Excerpts from a WIP)

Spencer Silverthorne

2024

Needful Things

Micropoems by Ronald J. Scully (Americana)

Designation

Poetry by Wendy Taylor Carlisle

California Summer

Poetry by Michael Lee Johnson

Once Is Enough

Formalist poems by Peter Austin (Americana)

Garden

Poems by Jianqing Zheng (Americana)

Let Me Say This Up Front

Poetry by David James (Americana)

GEMS

Poems by Larry D. Thomas

BESTIARY

Poems by Larry D. Thomas

2025

WEST Toward Squalicum Mountain

Poems by Richard Weiderkehr

Mississippi River Delta: A Bestiary

Poems by Larry D. Thomas

A Week Late...

Haibun & Tanka Prose by Carolyn Martin



BUTTONHOOK PRESS
AN IMPRINT OF OPEN: JOURNAL OF ARTS & LETTERS

HOT BUTTON PRESS *Contemporary Issues*

2023

Lamentations: Icons of War

Arab-Israeli Conflict image-as-poem collection by Tony Brinkley

[In Praise of Columbus](#)

Poetry by Kirby Olson

Perseus with the Head of Medusa

Editorials on Issues of Contemporary Aesthetics by Contributing Editor
Mick McGrath

[Democrats by Trippin'](#)

Editorials on Issues of Contemporary Aesthetics by Contributing Editor
Mick McGrath

[Let's Talk About Female Academics](#)

Editorials on Issues of Contemporary Aesthetics by Contributing Editor
Mick McGrath

[Diversophiles Everywhere!](#)

Editorials on Issues of Contemporary Aesthetics by Contributing Editor
Mike McGrath

The End of the "Black Victim" Narrative?

Editorials on Issues of Contemporary Aesthetics by Contributing Editor
Mick McGrath

2024

Woes Innumerable (HOT BUTTON PRESS)

Based Fiction Mick McGrath (Americana)

2025

[The Future Is Mao!](#) (HOT BUTTON PRESS)

Short Fiction by Mick McGrath

[Musing the Crossroads](#) (HOT BUTTON PRESS)

Poems by Larry D. Thomas

[SUPERFLUOUS SUPER LOUIS](#) (HOT BUTTON PRESS)

Winner of the 2025 WEITZ PRIZE for Counter-Revolution Writing
Short Story by Perry Genovesi

Rule & Innovation (HOT BUTTON PRESS)

Short Fiction by Mick McGrath

JIM MEIROSE
Experimental Discourse: *A Productive Labor*

DALLY POST PRESS: *Cowboy Poetry*

2025

Manhunt in Mossy Creek

Traditional Ballad by Doug Stoiber



DALLY POST PRESS

An imprint of OPEN: Journal of Arts & Letters

FIREFIGHT PRESS: *Trench Art*

2025

ODE TO A GUNNER'S MATE

Poem by LT. Kalireyna Streeby

OPEN: Journal of Arts & Letters
EXPERIENCE/REFLECT/CELEBRATE



FIREFIGHT PRESS:
Trench Art Series

THE AMERICAN PAMPHLET:
Reconfiguring Literary Prestige

JIM MEIROSE
Experimental Discourse: *A Productive Labor*

AVAILABLE NOW FROM O:JA&L'S BUTTONHOOK PRESS

FLASH FICTION: Alive in the Flicker *A Portable Workshop*

PAMELYN CASTO

“Pamelyn Casto’s *Flash Fiction: Alive in the Flicker* is insightful, comprehensive, and brimming with inventive prompts and exercises to make your flash truly leap off the page.”

~ Dinty W. Moore

co-editor of the *Best of Brevity: Twenty Groundbreaking Years of Flash Nonfiction*

“Pamelyn Casto has been the most useful person in flash for years. This “portable workshop” proves it. *Flash Fiction: Alive in the Flicker* is an amazing flash compendium of everything for anyone who is interested the form. It’s also a writers’ workshop from prompts to where to send flashes. What’s not to like?”

~ Robert Shapard

co-editor of many Flash and Sudden Fiction anthologies, the latest are *Sudden Fiction Latina: Short Stories from the United States and Latin America* (2010) and *Flash Fiction International: Very Short Stories from Around the World* (2015)

“Pamelyn Casto’s valuable book *Flash Fiction: Alive in the Flicker* is an astonishing illumination—a total history of the form with essays, strategies and exercises; lessons, examples, how-to’s, markets, marketing, contests, anthologies, prompts, advice from pros, new directions (flash film!), reader psychology even—it is all here, with hundreds of internet links. There will never be a fuller single resource, with a good teacher’s encouraging tone about it, to boot. You can say flash fiction begins with Aesop; with Casto you can begin anew.

~Kent H. Dixon

translator of *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (2018) and co-editor of *Stone Wall Book of Short Fictions* (1976)

JIM MEIROSE

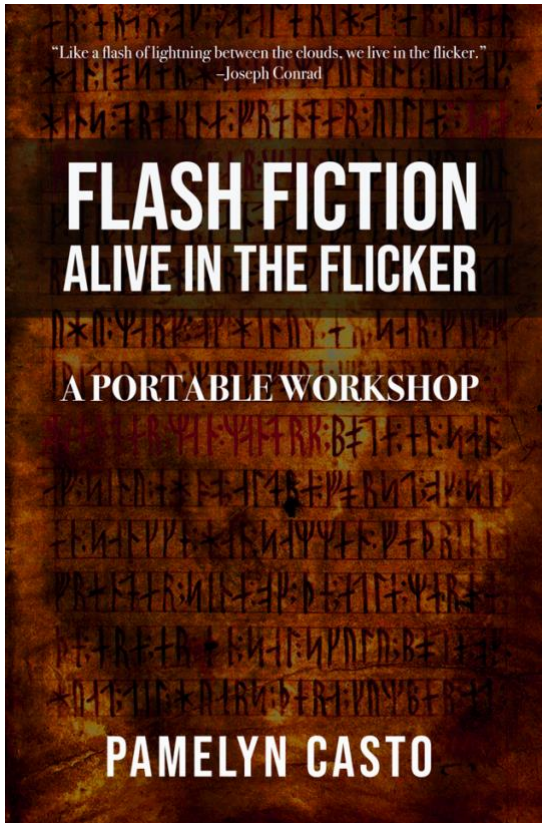
Experimental Discourse: *A Productive Labor*

“Pamelyn Casto is a deep font of flash knowledge, and this portable workshop is a thorough, indispensable resource for writers and instructors who want to know more about what this thing called “flash” is, how to write it, and more important, how to read and understand it.”

~ Tara Lynn Masih

editor of *The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction* (2009)
and founder of *The Best Small Fictions* (founded 2015)

Buttonhook Press titles on Amazon
available now



THE AMERICAN PAMPHLET:
Reconfiguring Literary Prestige

JIM MEIROSE
Experimental Discourse: *A Productive Labor*

AMAZON REVIEWS

for Pamelyn Castos's *FLASH FICTION: Alive in the Flicker*

Daniel J. Nicholas

Reviewed in the United States on August 26, 2024

Verified Purchase

If I were to teach a class, this book would be required reading or a course outline for discussion. Bravo, Pamelyn! In addition, I look forward to your monthly blog to start up again.

David Lignell

Reviewed in the United States on November 23, 2022

Verified Purchase

Pamela Casto's new text, *Flash Fiction: Alive in the Flicker*, is a must have "portable workshop" workbook for anyone who desires to learn and practice the many forms of flash fiction.

W.R. Rodriguez

Reviewed in the United States on October 5, 2022

Verified Purchase

An authoritative overview of the genre, combined with practical advice on the writing process and an abundance of writing prompts.

Norman Jensen

Reviewed in the United States on April 2, 2024

Reading is great but hands-on prompts are even better.



BUTTONHOOK PRESS
AN IMPRINT OF OPEN: JOURNAL OF ARTS & LETTERS

Supporting artists and writers worldwide

O:JA&L'S 2025 PAMPHLET SERIES

\$4.95 (USA)

\$7.95 (Canada)

HAL: *Heuristic Algorithmic Library*
An imprint of O:JA&L
