

So, I have filled quite a lot of gaps in the second half of 2023: Yoko Ono Jr's fictional GANTOB book, and six missing Penkiln Burn pamphlets. The theme of absence has also never been far away from my writing:

- in the process of "Destrukting", where I gave away a large part of my KLF and related collection during August 2023 to distribute pamphlets and find recruits for my first book
- in the death pamphlets (X12-X14), which were written in response to some of the issues raised by my GANTOB correspondents and a change in my own family circumstances
- and in my own anonymity in the GANTOB role.

As I approach the end of my time as GANTOB (31 December 2023), I have been thinking about projects of the scale of Sir James Gowans' work. We would not make progress if we did not take risks. The GANTOB project has enabled a growing number of GANTOBers to find inspiration, reflect on significant times in their lives, and write about it. These have been profound responses to a relatively low-cost intervention. The end results will hopefully be lifted off bookcases over coming years or decades when the time is right. I am sure that you have had similar responses to your books, pamphlets and blogs. I was certainly inspired to become more creative in response to your writing.

But any of these projects are trivial in comparison to The People's Pyramid. We cannot know whether The People's Pyramid will be completed, how long it will last, or perhaps even where it will be located. But it is an admirable attempt to create something of lasting value (non-pecuniary), punctuated by events of celebration and remembrance each 23 November. The pyramid may occupy what is currently a "gap

site", that will ultimately become a hub of cultural significance. Who knows.

In your book *Ragworts* you wrote of your love of derelict sites ("degeneration"). Perhaps that is because they represent the birth of gaps, and the hope that something inspiring will fill those gaps. Not, of course, a modern, glitzy theatre with bar and an overpriced menu; but the wildflowers that still emerge in the burnt-out scrub on Calton Hill after the 2022 fire, or a bus planted in Künstler-initiative Tacheles, Berlin, pre-regeneration.

And with that, I discharge my objective to re-imagine "gap 15" in the Penkiln Burn pamphlets. "Gap 30" will be filled by a completely new story - Little Grapefruit's Christmas. This will be in a printed edition of one, in time for the last Christmas post, to be sent to the father of the eight-year-old I mentioned. It will be released more widely in electronic form on Christmas Day. There is also a rumoured "Muir Trance Series". Then the GANTOB project will almost be over.

Perhaps on 1 January 2024 I will pull the plug on gantob.blog. We'll see. I have promised to convert the 99 posts and associated materials into a book that will fill a gap in the contributors' bookcases, in a book called *GANTOB's 2023: A trilogy*. I plan to publish this on 23 January 2024. This will be the first time I "re-enact" something related to The JAMs/ The KLF that actually existed. Except it will bear very little resemblance to The JAMs' book. It will have a life of its own. GANTOB and her GANTOBers will have become writers in their own right.

Yours, GANTOB

5 December 2023, updated 12 December 2023

If you would like to contribute 400 words for gantob.blog this December, please email

100percentvinyl2@gmail.com



GAP

A pamphlet

by

GANTOB

Produced for

a local artist

GANTOB Pamphlet X15r

Dear Local Artist,

This pamphlet is intended to re-enact a gap in the Penkiln Burn pamphlets – PB Pamphlet 15.

Back in September 2023, I received a scrap of paper under mysterious circumstances. The text that was legible on this fragment described a massive historical “gap site” in the West End of Edinburgh. This quarter of a square mile had, over the past 150 years, seen huge projects come and go. These buildings are now visible only in history books and plaques. Examples included Princes Street Station (which closed in 1965) and the West End Theatre. The latter was originally planned by architect Sir James Gowans as a larger complex with winter garden and aquarium, but this was not completed. The theatre, built in 1875, was quickly converted to Synod Hall for the United Presbyterian Church in 1877, and in the first half of the 20th century became a venue that evolved with successive waves of cinematic innovation. After demolition in the 1960s it remained a “hole in the ground” for decades. Plans for a national opera house failed. The site hosted Edinburgh Fringe events under canvas over successive summers. In 1991 Saltire Court and Traverse Theatre were built and it was no longer a gap site.

I had not been aware of James Gowans’ work until I read that fragment of paper. It was purported to be by my late father-in-law Curt Finks (not his real name). I have written quite a lot about the Reverend Finks before.

But the actual writer of that excerpt was, as revealed a couple of months later, my sometime collaborator - and indeed funder - The Benefaktor. He is an 83-year-old member of the Edinburgh establishment. I keep out of his way as much as possible. I have never felt comfortable

around bosses. I expect that The Benefaktor will have seen various waves of development in the West End of Edinburgh. He may have travelled from Princes Street Station and watched horror movies at the Poole family cinema, as he had Curt Finks do in his little fiction. Perhaps The Benefaktor made financial contributions to the building of Traverse Theatre. We can only speculate what will become of this area over the next 150 years. At present it is part of a cultural hub of which Sir James may well have approved, perhaps with reservations about the architectural design.

I am interested in gaps. The first GANTOB project – an attempt to bring into existence a book that probably never existed – filled a gap in the work of The Justified Ancients of Mu Mu. Their book, *2023: A trilogy* (Faber 2017), made frequent mentions of a fictional book by Yoko Ono Junior. I re-enacted Ms Ono’s book, the title of which forms the basis of my name.

Since then, I have also attempted to fill gaps in your Penkiln Burn pamphlets. As far as I know, there have been no sightings of Penkiln Burn pamphlets 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 or 30. Accordingly, I have written imagined versions of these – as GANTOB Pamphlets – adding an X to distinguish them from any Penkiln Burn versions that may emerge. Some – pamphlets X12-X14 – use the names that were previously listed on the Penkiln Burn website (respectively: *Who Died Last?*; *Paint Them Black*; and *The Birth of Death*). I have made up titles for the rest. They link into the world and characters that I have created as part of the first GANTOB book and the related promotional activities. I recently sent a copy of each of these three pamphlets to the forty-one people who contributed a question to the original book. I also

sent eight copies to the Depository at The Crossing this year. Perhaps you saw them.

The first version of this current pamphlet (X15) was handwritten on a journey between Edinburgh Waverley and King’s Cross Station on 5 December 2023. I wrote it “live”. I handed it to you earlier this week at an event that we both attended. That is the only version of X15 that will ever exist. It was quite difficult to read because I wrote it in a spidery hand on a fold down table on a speeding train. Some of the ink from the large GAP written on the front seeped through to the other pages. It would also have benefitted from some editing. This new version (X15r) is hopefully clearer, as it is typed and reworked. Some people may say remixed. You requested it in an email on 8 December 2023.

All but one of my other pamphlets have been typed. They initially sought questions for my imagining of the book *Grapefruit Are Not The Only Bombs*. They evolved to define re-enactment (as part of The KLFRS), describe the GANTOB process, and discuss the themes that emerged from interactions with GANTOB correspondents. For example, hearing that an 8-year-old was bored with my attempts to answer her father’s questions, inspired me to create the most popular character in the GANTOBverse: Little Grapefruit. My answers to the questions - and the pamphlets - formed the basis of my first book, which was unsurprisingly called *Grapefruit Are Not The Only Bombs: 2023 re-enactment* (GANTOB Books, 23 September 2023). I believe that you were sent a copy of this book and associated paraphernalia. Perhaps you have read it. On 24 September 2023 I started a blog documenting the last 99 days of 2023 in 3 equal parts. You can read it at gantob.blog.