

John G.H. Oakes  
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I am a publisher, editor, and writer, advancing progressive political perspectives on a variety of platforms. I am interested in new media and new distribution systems for news and learning.

### CURRENT

- Publisher, *The Evergreen Review* (2017- )
- Work-in-progress: manuscript
- Editor-at-large, OR Books (2020- )

### EXPERIENCE

#### **The New School Publishing Institute**

*founder and director, 2017-2020*

#### **OR Books**

*co-founder and co-publisher, 2010-May 2020*

#### **The City University of New York (CUNY) Publishing Institute**

*founder and director, 2010-2016*

#### **Atlas & Company**

*executive editor, 2006-2008*

#### **Avalon Publishing Group**

*vice president, 2004-2006*

#### **Thunder's Mouth Press/Nation Books**

*publisher, 2004-2006*

#### **Four Walls Eight Windows**

*co-founder and publisher, 1987-2004*

#### **Grove Press**

*assistant editor, 1985-1987*

#### **Associated Press**

*reporter (New Orleans), 1984-1985*

### PUBLICATIONS

- *The Fast: The History, Science, Philosophy and Promise of Doing Without* (spring 2024, Avid Reader Press/Simon & Schuster)
- forthcoming essay on history of *The Evergreen Review* for coffee table book (Fantagraphics, 2024)
- "There Is More than One 'Lit Mag of the Moment'," *LitMag News*, March 2022 online
- "Publishing and Culture: The Alchemy of Ideas," Chapter 7 in *The Oxford Handbook of Publishing* (Oxford University Press, 2019). My 7,000-word essay was translated into Japanese and published as a separate chapbook (Voyager Japan, 2019).
- "A Brief History of This Book," in *Rosset: My Life in Publishing and How I Fought Censorship* (OR Books, 2019)
- "Slaughtermatic: Assault on Authority," in *Steve Aylett: A Critical Anthology* (Sein und Werden, 2016)
- "Pain and Its Alleviation," Chapter 23 in *Book: A Futurist's Manifesto* (O'Reilly, 2012)
- editor, *In the Realms of the Unreal: "Insane" Writings* (Four Walls Eight Windows, 1991)
- various articles in *Publishers Weekly*, *The Journal of Electronic Publishing*, *Huffington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, PEN American Center, *The Associated Press*, *The Review of Contemporary Fiction*, *The International Herald Tribune*, etc.

### SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Princeton University, alumni/faculty panel on freedom of expression, May 2023
- Brooklyn, USA: Center for Fiction, 2022
- Johannesburg, South Africa: talk to group convened by Jacana Books (virtual), 2020
- Tokyo, Japan: speech at Hibiya Library, 2019
- Chennai, India: talk to group convened by Tara Books, 2017
- Cambridge, England: speech at University of Cambridge, 2016
- Melbourne, Australia: three-day seminar at University of Melbourne graduate program in publishing, 2015
- various other venues, including Denver (University of Colorado), New Haven (Yale University), and New York City (NYU, Adelphi, New School University)

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND HONORS**

- judge, John B. Oakes Award for Environmental Journalism, Columbia University School of Journalism; 2001-2021
- co-founder and former board member, Princeton Progressives, 2000-2021
- New York Public Library Publishers and Literary Committee, 2014-2019
- chevalier de l'ordre des arts et des lettres, French government, 1999
- former board member, P.E.N. American Center, 2005-2013
- former board member, Alfanar U.S., 2010-2018. Alfanar is an Arab-run foundation promoting democracy in the Middle East.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Princeton University**

*B.A. English, 1979-1983*

- graduated cum laude
- received Certificate in European Studies
- English Department thesis prize (Charles William Kennedy Prize) for "Samuel Beckett: Flight from Chaos"

### **École de Sciences Politiques, Paris**

*Certificat d'études étrangers, 1983-1984*

## **RESIDENCIES**

- New York Public Library Wertheim Study Room scholar, August 2021-August 2023
- Jentel Arts Residency Program, Banner, WY, March 15-April 13, 2023
- Yaddo Corporation, Saratoga Springs, NY, September 6-26, 2022
- Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow, Eureka Springs, AR, February 1-19, 2021
- Gullkistan Center for Creativity, Laugarvatn, Iceland, November 11-December 1, 2020
- Art Omi, Hudson, NY, September 28-October 15, 2020

## **LANGUAGES**

Conversational French, working knowledge of German, Spanish