

# Printed Matter, Inc.

## *The John Dowd Fan Club*

Vintage publications and broadsheets available for purchase

Printed Matter is pleased to present a selection of self-published serial publications and ephemera by late New Yorker John Dowd, a key if often overlooked figure in the correspondence art movement of the early 1970s. These works are being offered in conjunction with our current exhibition, *The John Dowd Fan Club*.

*The John Dowd Fan Club* traces Dowd's collaborative output through a near-complete overview of editioned publications and folded broadsheets, accompanied by extensive archival material including unique zines, xerox ephemera, promotional inserts, collages, mail art, correspondence, and original stencils.

John Dowd's fascinating body of work draws from a huge range of influences, filtered through a pre-Punk xerox aesthetic and inflected by post-Stonewall political concern. Drawn from the pervasive 'image bank' of popular culture, the works' lifted imagery was sourced from media and everyday life, removed from specific context and liberated of their captions. In a biographical statement written on Dowd (which he subsequently worked back into his art) he was quoted saying "I really like pictures in sequence, facing each other on opposite pages; then you can say something". For Dowd it was a simple and beguiling equation in which collage and juxtaposition offered a wildly productive means to generate new narrative work that bridged the personal, cultural and political, often accompanied by his perverse sense of humor.

Dowd's work shows a recurrent fascination with celebrity and stardom, exploring the inherent power that images possess as a kind of 'advertisement', standing in for a set of ideas and advancing an agenda. Pop-stars and cultural icons were 'projects' that circulated through society, and their likeness carried fetishistic properties with specific, attendant meaning (Donald Duck, one such icon found throughout Dowd's work, is for his part always playing the "sacrificial bird"). Dowd's work borrows from a recurring cast of characters familiar from Entertainment iconography – actors, artists, performers, cinema (John Boorman's *Deliverance* was a fixation all its own), animals, superheroes, and all things Walt Disney. Dowd fastidiously collected these images himself or solicited them through open calls he issued to his friends and the mail art community at large.

This selection of work includes issues of the collaborative publication FANZINI, edited by longtime Dowd collaborator John Jack Baylin, as well as Dowd's music-influenced periodical THE STAR. Also included is the complete series of Dowd's seminal collage broadsheet SUPPLEMENT. Each issue in the series collages a set of images that address a chosen topic: SUMMERTIME, PERFORMANCE, WRIST WATCH, EARTH, SUN, SOLO, and SPECIAL. Sourced from a variety of media, they are reassembled to build new narratives.

### **FREE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT CONSULTING SERVICES & STANDING ORDERS**

Printed Matter is a tremendous resource for librarians interested in developing their artists' book collections. Through our long-standing open submission policy we have unique access to a broad array of contemporary artists publishing. We currently work one-on-one with several libraries to make collections based on varying criteria. We can also create standing orders for your institution that can be collaboratively crafted, where we pull books aside for your future review. This is a terrific way to keep abreast of the diversity of artists' publishing projects that are streaming into Printed Matter on a daily basis. If you would like to arrange for a consultation or discuss placing a standing order, please email [sales@printedmatter.org](mailto:sales@printedmatter.org).

If you would like to place an order, we will create a special Library account allowing you to bypass the prepayment requirement and instead invoice on a net 30 day basis. Or feel free to place orders by mail, email or phone. Thank you for supporting non-profit distribution and artists' book publishing! We hope to work with you soon!

# SUPPLEMENT SERIES

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John Dowd  
***A Special Supplement***

Vancouver, Canada; J. Dowd, 1977.  
[1] p.; 29 x 22 cm.; Paperback; Folded; Black and White; Broad-side

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT, the largest in the SUPPLEMENT series, focuses predominately on Little Richard. Alongside a variety of photos of the star--him singing, dancing, posing with The Beatles, and sitting for a headshot--are illustrations of animals, including baby chicks, grown hens, and a Cocker Spaniel. Along the inside seam is a simple cartoon drawing of a figure trying to open a door. Rather than pull it open by its handle, he pulls the entire door off its hinges, allowing it to fall on his body. By playfully juxtaposing these visuals together, Dowd invites viewers to read between the images, opening them up to interpretations beyond those intended by their original contexts in pop culture or daily life.

Inventory #: 108826 C  
<https://www.printedmatter.org/tables/3948/47511>



John Dowd  
***Earth Supplement***

Vancouver, Canada; J. Dowd, 1977.  
[1] p.; 29 x 21.5 cm.; Paperback; Folded; Black and White; Broadside

EARTH SUPPLEMENT opens and closes with two illustrations of birds. The first is of a nest made of sticks surrounded by foliage with a small egg floating above it; the second depicts a mother bird flying to a nest full of babies with a worm, beneath which is a short story about a boy who brings home a nest and is called cruel by his father. Inside is a photo print of a mother cheetah posed with her baby; this is followed by a full page spread of photographs of pairs of animals--deer, birds, zebras, snakes--in their environments. Juxtaposed, they discuss the connections forged between animals and their surroundings, and the varied visual representations of both.

Inventory #: 108823 C  
<https://www.printedmatter.org/tables/3948/47508>



John Dowd  
***Performance Supplement***

Vancouver, Canada; J. Dowd, 1970.  
[1] p.; 23 x 19 cm.; Paperback; Folded; Black and White.

The outside covers of PERFORMANCE SUPPLEMENT feature some of the cartoon characters from the original Fantasia movie (Disney, 1940), including the elephants, the female birds, and the sorcerer Mickey. Each character is caught in a still from the movie in which they are giving exaggerated performances; there are gaping eyes and mouths, craned necks, and hands in mid spell-cast. These performative poses continue inside with photographs of a dancer, a magician, and a man dramatically smoking a cigar in an ad.

Inventory #: 108821 C  
<https://www.printedmatter.org/tables/3948/47506>

**\$55.00**



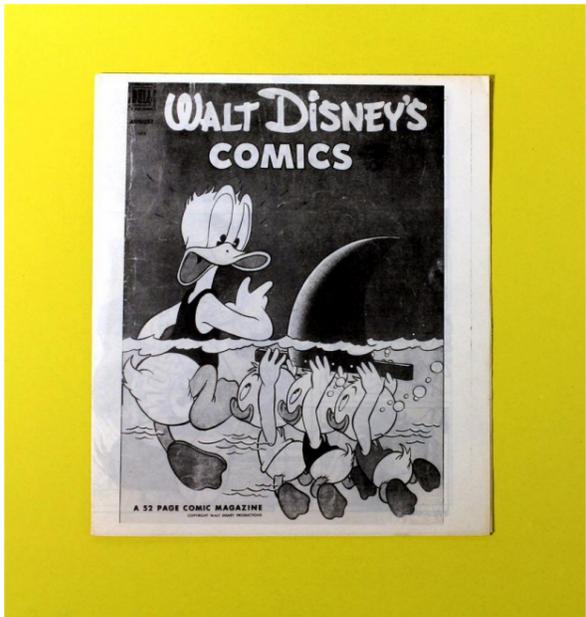
John Dowd  
***Solo Supplement***

Vancouver, Canada; J. Dowd, 1972.  
[1] p.; 29 x 21.5 cm.; Paperback; Folded; Black and White.

SOLO SUPPLEMENT places images of stars such as Paul McCartney, Aretha Franklin, and the Virgin Mary beside images of everyday moments (a sun setting on a rocky coastline, a man with his hand in his pocket, a frowning baby). In the centerfold, a still life painting of flowers is covered with some of these individuals, the solo star and the solo moment contrasted but still together.

Inventory #: 108825 C  
<https://www.printedmatter.org/tables/3948/47510>

**\$55.00**



John Dowd  
***Summertime Supplement Set***

Vancouver, Canada; J. Dowd, 1970.  
[1] p.; 22 X19 cm; Paperback; Folded; Black and White.

SUMMERTIME SUPPLEMENT culls together visual depictions of summer. It starts with a Disney comic in which a swimming Donald Duck--a character who appears throughout Dowd's oeuvre--reacts to a shark's dorsal fin (which is really a fake held up by three smaller ducks holding their breath underwater). The seasonal imagery continues inside where a more contemporary version of Donald lounges on a beach chair with a pin-up model, Daffy Duck smiles at the sun, and illustrations of tropical plants and fruits fill framed rectangles. The broadsheet closes with a photograph of two ducks floating in rippled water.

Inventory #: 108820 C  
<https://www.printedmatter.org/tables/3948/47505>

**\$55.00**



John Dowd  
***Sun Supplement***

Vancouver, Canada; J.Dowd, 1970.  
[1] p.; 29 x 22 cm.; Paperback; Folded; Black and White.

SUN SUPPLEMENT's cover shows a young boy happily playing guitar in a living room with floral wallpaper. Inside are a series of equally sunny scenes--a vintage photograph of a Walgreen's drugstore in New York City, close-up snaps of oranges growing on trees, a couple with an infant mediating in a park, and a group of people playing instruments as they dance around a table of food. It closes with a drawing of an Indian god rubbing fruit on the forehead of a cow.

Inventory #: 108824 C  
<https://www.printedmatter.org/tables/3948/47509>

**\$55.00**



John Dowd  
***Supplement Set [7 Issues]***

Vancouver, Canada; J.Dowd, 1970.  
Paperback; Black and White.

Complete set of Supplement issues.  
SUPPLEMENT is a series of seven single folded broadsides by John Dowd. Each collages a set of images that address a chosen topic: SUMMERTIME, PERFORMANCE, WRIST WATCH, EARTH, SUN, SOLO, and SPECIAL. Sourced from a variety of media, they are reassembled to build new narratives.

Inventory #: 108828 C  
<https://www.printedmatter.org/tables/3948/47513>

**\$350.00**



John Dowd  
***Wristwatch Supplement***

Vancouver, Canada; J.Dowd, 1970.  
[1] p.; 23 X 19 cm.; Paperback; Folded; Black and White.

SUPPLEMENT is a series of seven single folded broadsides by John Dowd. Each collages a set of images that address a chosen topic: SUMMERTIME, PERFORMANCE, WRIST WATCH, EARTH, SUN, SOLO, and SPECIAL. Sourced from a variety of media, they are reassembled to build new narratives.  
WRIST WATCH SUPPLEMENT looks at the representation of women in the media, in particular 1960s fashion ads, promotional materials for girl groups like The Shirelles, and a still from Disney's Sleeping Beauty in which Princess Aurora poses in a cape, both hands on her hips. In each, women are well-groomed and well-dressed--and highlighted for their appearances--but have been removed from the original context in which their beauty was praised.

Inventory #: 108822 C  
<https://www.printedmatter.org/tables/3948/47507>

**\$55.00**

# FANZINI AND OTHER WORKS

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John Jack Baylin, Fanzini, John Dowd  
**Fanzini 1975**

Toronto, Canada; Art Metropole, 1975.  
88 p.; 28 x 21.5 cm.; Paperback; Staple Bound; Offset Printed;  
Black and White.

In Dowd's two-page spread titled "Portrait of the Artist: Elvis Presley/Jackson Pollock" a jean-clad Pollock sits on the runner of a jalopy wearing paint-speckled loafers, his solemn brow etched deeper in the shadow of a tree. Opposite him, Elvis in plush trouser-pants straddles the atectonic fin of a white luxury car (likely a cadillac). Unlike much of the mostly collaged content of this artist's magazine, this composition by Dowd is clearly partitioned, but the Elvis/Pollock contrast is precisely the dialectic out of which Dowd's chimerical Fanzini '74 is born.

Neither pop-star nor painter escapes their simplistic allegorical constructions--Pollock mired in the tenebrism of his representation nor Elvis his flashbulb fame. Here, Dowd restores them to the equivalence of the magazine page. and exposes the sparkling world of the magazine for what it is-- a two-dimensional universe.

Inventory #: 108537 D  
<https://www.printedmatter.org/tables/3948/1803>

**\$20.00**



John Dowd, John Jack Baylin  
**FANZINI / AMERICA**

Long Beach, California; Long Beach Museum of Art, 1976.  
66 p.; 30.5 x 23.5 cm.; Paperback; Staple Bound; Black and White.

FANZINI/AMERICA is a catalogue by John Dowd (edited by John Jack Baylin and published by the Long Beach Museum of Art) that engages tropes of 1970s America, from surfer dudes to Muhammad Ali, Snoopy, glass Coke bottles, and Jan-Michael Vincent in The World's Greatest Athlete. On one spread, graphic text asks, "In the midst of chaos / a search for some ideal?" Between these two lines is a photograph of a man running, furthering the zine's exploration of masculinity and athleticism in American visual culture.

Inventory #: 108815 D  
<https://www.printedmatter.org/tables/3948/47501>

**\$150.00**



John Dowd, John Jack Baylin  
***Fanzine-Fanzini***

Vancouver, Canada; J, Dowd. 1972.  
 28 x 23 cm.; Paperback; Spiral Bound; Photocopy; Black and White.

Fanzine/Fanzini is divided into four parts: Letters/Discussion (a series of letters exchanged between John Dowd and his longtime collaborator John Jack Baylin), Yogo Development Band (a recounting of a meeting between the John Dowd Fanny Club and Chicken Lee, the new leader of the band), a visual essay comprised of a series of images from popular culture (including a T. Rex, some maps, and various cartoon cats, from Disney's *The Aristocats* to *Garfield* and *Felix*), and "Special Exclusive!!!!" (a collage of ads, more Disney imagery, and an interview between the Johns). Spiral bound and printed in black and white, this collaborative periodical continues Dowd's exploration of celebrity, cartoons (in particular Disney's), and advertisements, bringing them together to develop a more nuanced exploration of the visuals that fill American daily life.

Inventory #: 108814 D  
<https://www.printedmatter.org/tables/3948/4133>

**\$150.00**



John Dowd, John Jack Baylin  
***Fanzini Goes to the Movies***

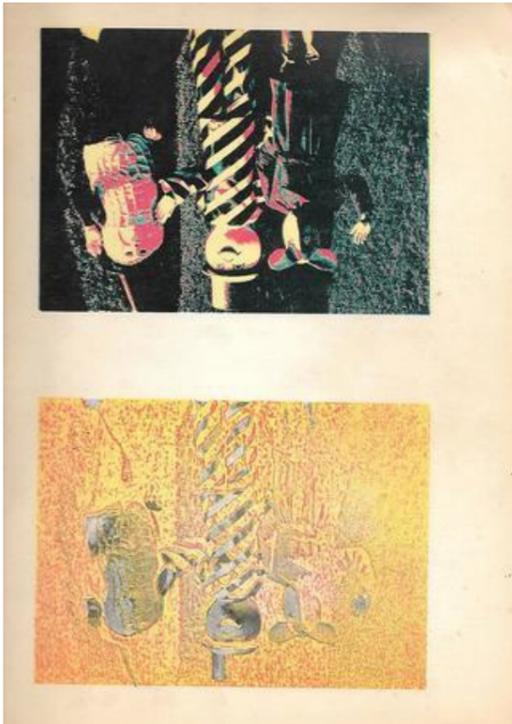
Vancouver, Canada; J.J Baylin, 1974.  
 [120] p.; 28 x 21.5 cm.; Paperback; Glue Bound; Offset Printed; Black and White.

FANZINI GOES TO THE MOVIES includes contributions from a host of artists and writers including A.A. Bronson, John Dowd, General Idea, Peter Hujar, Ray Johnson, John Jack Baylin, and Reggie Walker. Loosely divided into seven sections (Letters/Discussion, Deliverance, Women in Microfiche, Dissolve or Perish, Feshit!, Palm Casino Revue, and Sensational Action), the zine collages together appropriated advertisement imagery, correspondence between some of the artists, cartoons, and soft-core porn.

From *Queer Zines, Volume One* (second edition):  
 Fanzini was produced by John Jack Baylin, originally as a faux (or not-so-faux) fanzine to John Dowd, a handsome New York leatherman with a physique reminiscent of a 'Tom of Finland' character. Dowd himself provided many of the collages that appear in Fanzini, especially the earlier issues. They tend to combine Walt Disney characters and leathermen.

Inventory #: 94912  
<https://www.printedmatter.org/tables/3948/19345>

**\$45.00**



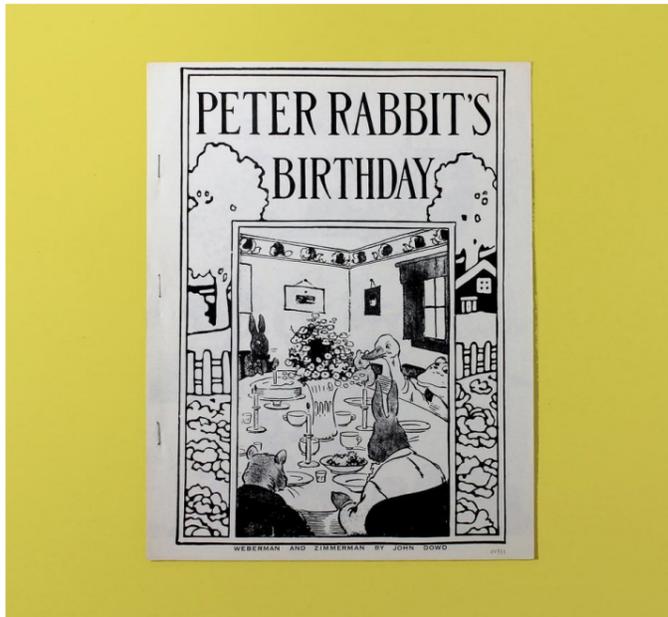
**IS Magazine, Nos. 12/13 : West Coast Issue**

1973.  
30 x 22.5 cm.; Paperback; Perfect Binding; Black and White.

This double issue of IS Magazine includes a reprint of The John Dowd Fanny Club zine.

Inventory #: 108834 C  
<https://www.printedmatter.org/catalog/47519/>

**\$150.00**



John Dowd  
**Peter Rabbit's Birthday**

Vancouver, Canada; J.Dowd, 1971.  
[8] p.; 29 x 21.5 cm.; Paperback; Staple Bound; Black and White.

Peter Rabbit's Birthday is an eight-page staple-bound zine by John Dowd. A series of black and white illustrations and collages, the zine takes various images from popular culture--Peter Rabbit, Janis Joplin, the Hindu cattle goddess Kamadhenu--and places them side by side. In doing so, Dowd infuses the media with a sense of humor, one that is simultaneously political and personal.

Inventory #: 108827 C  
<https://www.printedmatter.org/tables/3948/47512>



John Dowd  
**The Star, Vol. 1**

New York, NY; J.Dowd & S.Stellar, 1970.  
11 p.; 39 X 29 cm.; Paperback; Loose Leaves; Offset Printed; Black and White.

THE STAR, Vol. 1, a collaboration between John Dowd and New York-based photographer Stanley Stellar, brings together photographs of The Rolling Stones with appropriated imagery from advertisements and humorous cartoon illustrations. Editioned number "ONE" but without any subsequent publications, the fanzine reads as an homage to pop stars and pop culture, one that emphasizes individual ownership over mass-circulated visual material.

Inventory #: 108819 C  
<https://www.printedmatter.org/tables/3948/23568>

**\$55.00**