

THE RIDDLERS

AN INTERVIEW WITH
STEVE BRAUND

Steve Braund – illustrator, author, publisher and leader of MA illustration: Authorial practice at the University College Falmouth, recently published his latest book ‘The Riddlers’. We met up with Steve at the illustrious Carn Brea Lesiure Centre to ask him to give us a description of the new publication.

“*The Riddlers* is a work of graphic literature; essentially a short story in graphic form. Both pictures and words were drawn with the same Pitt oil-based pencil. The story is based on an enigmatic stone carving I grew up with, which was in

my grandmother’s garden; the book’s cover design has the appearance of one of her old music books.

The carving had stood in that garden for over a hundred years, having been carved by a stonemason who previously lived in the cottage. I fell over it many times when I was little, and so I’ve always had a relationship with it; I found it quite menacing back then, and still do.

The narrative unfolds in the sky above barren moorland; the setting for my personal graphic stories (gypsy background in my family). A quote from the *T’ao Te Ching* indicates the

metaphorical intention of the mouth of this strange fish-head carving protruding from a granite block.

The work was partly inspired by a waking dream in which potatoes cascaded down from the heights of the moors; human lives dashed on rocks, or thrown, ecstatically, high up into the air.

I wanted to return to the simple pleasure of pencil drawing. The story developed on its own as the drawings appeared, suggesting what eventually seemed a fully formed whole (to me anyway). I’m always amazed at how different

people see different things when they view/read the same work. In this case, I’m happy with the feeling of ambiguity, as the piece is meant to function in a poetic way. It attempts to present something about the interdependent relationship of good and evil, and of our deep state of unconsciousness; we are asleep. Beyond that, I’d rather let it speak for itself, otherwise I’d have just written a description of the idea instead.” +

Steve’s new book is available through
atlanticpressbooks.com

