

# *A trapdoor in every room.*

*Gracia Haby & Louise Jennison  
2 May - 27 May, 2007*



*An interpretation of the work of  
Gracia Haby & Louise Jennison  
by Jurate Sasnaitis*

We speak directly but hear ambiguously.

We see unambiguously but espy allegories.

The trapdoor can be an escape or a snare. The door may appear flush to the surface but in the gap between opening and closing, there is room for deceit. In the genteel murder mysteries of Agatha Christie, a life of grace and decorum harbours underlying wickedness. The surface bears little resemblance to reality.

This is the story of Gracia & Louise becoming the Agatha-authors of their visual text. The Agatha-verse offers such comfort because it is instantly recognisable, a nostalgic hankering for the past, a Robert Browning kind of world, where it is yet possible to think:

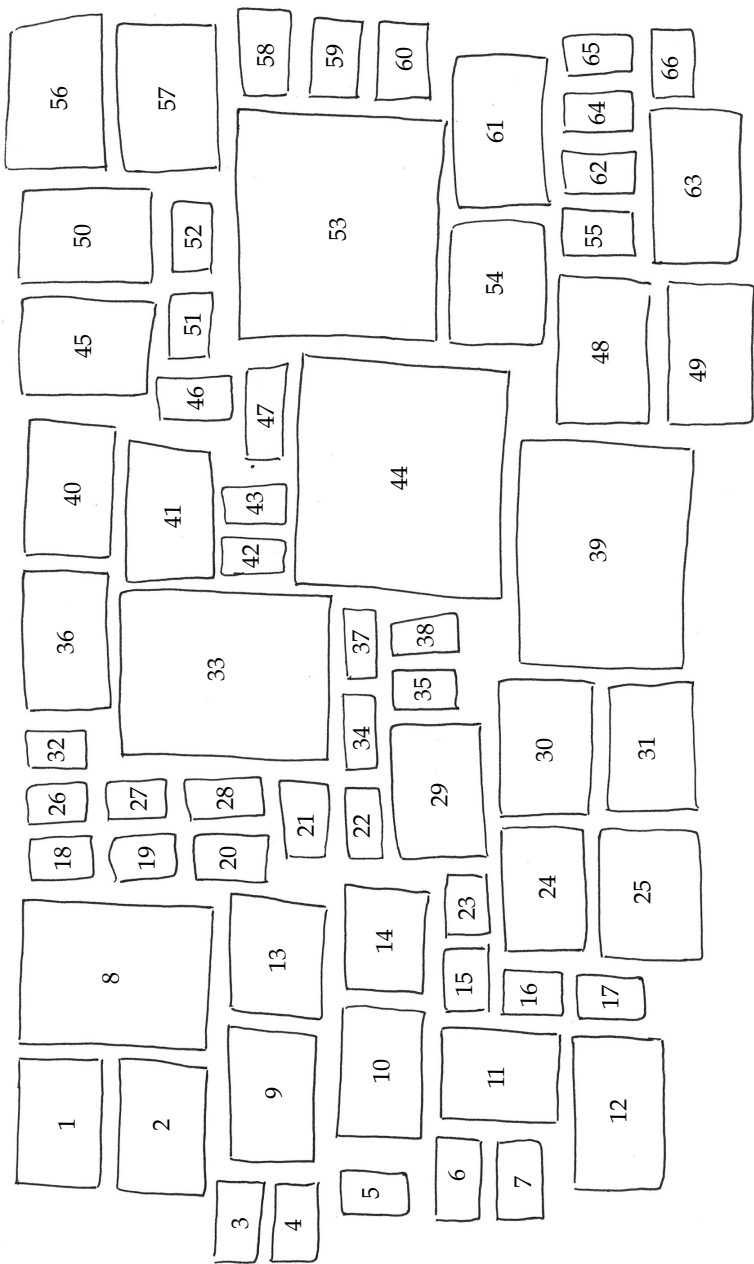
The year 's at the spring,  
And day 's at the morn;  
Morning 's at seven;  
The hill-side 's dew-pearl'd;  
The lark 's on the wing;  
The snail 's on the thorn;  
God 's in His heaven—  
All 's right with the world!

Of course, NOTHING's right with the world! The spring neither rains nor buds, the dawn's smogged in, the hillside's eroded and the lark's extinct — or if not the lark then some-lark, the many-larks — the snail's irradiated. Is God dead? NO nothin' is ok at all! Gracia & Louise would beguile us with a collage of delightful phrases, of postcards found and invented, of etchings and drawings. Our eye is caught by the pretty surface, but before our mind has a chance to turn aside, we are struck... the people long gone, the animals extinct, the birds entangled in fine wire, even those strange mechanical creatures, motorcycles, like screeching, raucous gulls with plumage ascribed to them that they have never owned.

The Gracia-Louise-Agatha-verse is the world inverted; a sad, mad, bad snapshot made palatable by the delicacy of line, the subtlety of tone, the charm of juxtaposition. But beware, don't let your eye be deceived. Allow my warning to come from yet another alternative universe, the Buffy-verse:

From beneath you, it devours.

{[www.gracialouise.com](http://www.gracialouise.com)}



Louise Jennison - watercolour and pencil on Fabriano traditional white 604gsm, and Aquarelle Arches 100% pure cotton hot pressed 300gsm paper. From 2006-07.

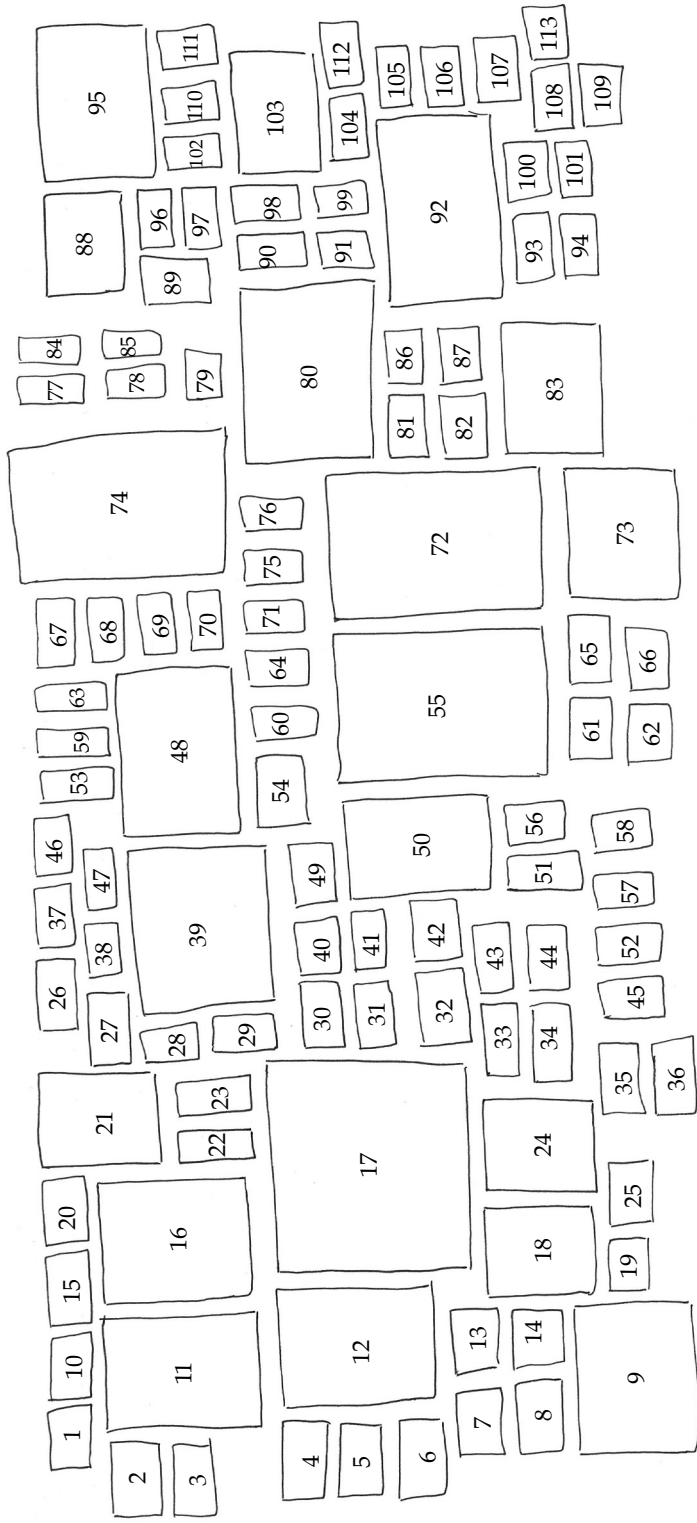
{All small works \$50 each, all medium sized works \$70 each & all large works \$100 each.}

Gracia Haby & Louise Jennison - Four colour lithographic offset print on Aquarelle Arches 100% pure cotton hot pressed 300gsm paper. Printed by Redwood Prints. Edition of 10, 2007.

[\$200 each.} (\*)

- 1 A Yamaha YZ450F, 2007.
- 2 A 2003 KTM 450SX waiting to be converted to a fuel-cell engine.
- 3 Black Bear with money to buy back her habitat.
- 4 Cleaner waters.
- 5 A Northern Hairy-nosed wombat takes refuge.
- 6 A Northern Hairy-nosed wombat counts his 70 remaining friends.
- 7 Two polar bears with lights.
- 8 A Crab-eater seal test the waters.
- 9 A Kawasaki KX450F.
- 10 A polar bear seeks refuge.
- 11 The Grey parrot whispers the escape plans to the Java sparrow.
- 12 A 2006, Husqvarna WR 250: Enduro.
- 13 Two polar bears with lights to mark out the safe parts ice.
- 14 A polar bear seeks refuge.
- 15 A Crab-eater Seal test the waters.
- 16 Strings attached.
- 17 A motocross rider attempts to cast a shadow of an Eastern Broad-nosed bat on the earth beneath his bike.
- 18 Strings attached.
- 19 A band of Tasmanian devils join forces to protect the Long Footed potoroos.
- 20 A quoka wearing a 'Don't Feed Me' badge.
- 21 A Tasmanian devil protects the Long Footed potoroos.
- 22 A polar bear with floatation devices.
- 23 An Australian Fur seal tests the waters.
- 24 A Humpback whale.
- 25 A Minke whale.
- 26 Wrens with strings attached.
- 27 A Tasmanian devil protects the Long Footed potoroos.
- 28 Cleaner waters.
- 29 A Kawasaki KLX300R painted in my preferred colours.
- 30 A Northern Right whale.
- 31 A Blue whale.
- 32 Strings attached.
- 33 A motocross rider attempts to cast a shadow of a polar bear on the earth beneath his bike.
- 34 A polar bear with floatation devices.
- 35 A Grey whale checking out his surroundings.
- 36 A 2007 Honda CRF450R.
- 37 A polar bear with floatation devices.
- 38 Humpback whales repairing the ice sheet.
- 39 A Tasmanian devil protects the Long Footed potoroos.
- 40 A Yamaha YZ250F converted to an electric hybrid engine.
- 41 A Kawasaki KLX300R.
- 42 Strings attached.
- 43 Strings attached.
- 44 No longer an aurora of polar bears, only a pair.
- 45 The Orange-Breasted bunting warns the Cuban grassquit.
- 46 A motocross rider attempts to cast a shadow of an Eastern Broad-nosed bat on the earth beneath his bike.
- 47 A motocross rider attempts to cast a shadow of an Eastern Broad-nosed bat on the earth beneath his bike.
- 48 A Gray whale.
- 49 A KTM 125 SX 2007.
- 50 A Eurasian robin looks out for the St.Vincent parrot.
- 51 A Gulf of California porpoise.
- 52 A Gulf of California porpoise with a handy pair of scissors.
- 53 New landscapes require new homes. (\*)
- 54 Humpback whales repairing the ice sheet.
- 55 Cleaner waters.
- 56 The Masked flowerpiercer hears the latest from a Rose-breasted thrush-tanager.
- 57 A Golden-shouldered parrot and Snowy owl talk things over.
- 58 A Tasmanian tiger imagines he still exists.
- 59 A Tasmanian tiger imagines he still exists.
- 60 A Brown bear, wishing he had more.
- 61 Humpback whales repairing the ice sheet.
- 62 An endangered Hector's dolphin jumps to cleaner waters.
- 63 A 2007 Suzuki RM-Z450 Ricky Carmicheal Replica.
- 64 Cleaner waters.
- 65 An Australian Fur seal test the waters.
- 66 A Grey whale checking out his surroundings.

(\*) Collaborative work.



Gracia Haby - Collage on postcard and printed material, 2006-07.

{All works \$50 each.}

Gracia Haby & Louise Jennison - Watercolour, pencil and collage on Fabriano traditional white 604gsm paper , 2007.

{Small works \$70 each & large works \$100} (\*)

- 1 Tell me all your secrets.
- 2 It was fast turning into a competition.
- 3 The lock was broken but the door still worked.
- 4 For Ethel.
- 5 He travelled for some time without incident.
- 6 Left or right, they all led to the one place.
- 7 It was not the objects that bewitched him, it was the order in which they were arranged.
- 8 Not my usual locale.
- 9 It would take more than that for me to part with my spoils.
- 10 It produced what no other refractory in Beirut could.
- 11 Putting tails to good use.
- 12 A white songster conspicuous against the sky.
- 13 Where I can be myself.
- 14 He'd taken a wrong turn somewhere along the line.
- 15 Are we there yet?
- 16 It made a pleasant change from the crow normally perched there.
- 17 We knew a great deal about housing. (\*)
- 18 Misfortune could not part them. (\*)
- 19 This ain't as easy as it seems.
- 20 He spoke through his nose.
- 21 Stumbling in the dark until you switched on the light, my friend. (\*)
- 22 I still don't trust them.
- 23 She pays me no attention, none whatsoever.
- 24 All under control. (\*)
- 25 They are discussing environmental policies.
- 26 This will do nicely.
- 27 A fork in the road - a kingfisher considers his prospects as a shepherd.
- 28 It was easy, if you didn't look down.
- 29 They gave me no chance to reply.
- 30 Mount Iwakiyama was hard to say but the American badger knew he'd adjust.
- 31 We just can't understand why the land here is going so cheap?
- 32 All I need can be found in Tunis.
- 33 Are you the one for me?
- 34 All was not as it ought.
- 35 Enough to make a cloak and a hood, and a pair of warm mittens.
- 36 A Wallich's stag with a yellow feathered Black-naped Oriole to clean his antlers.
- 37 A feast fit for a swamp otter and friend.
- 38 We'll be quite safe up here if we just keep still.
- 39 A fruitful morning for one.
- 40 Coins in every fountain.
- 41 The things we left behind.
- 42 Back to back they swam.
- 43 Just passing through.
- 44 All the thieves, they all tended to hide their jewels in the one spot.
- 45 Do you think anyone will notice?
- 46 Several small and talkative lodgers in need of a home.
- 47 No one seemed to mind so I proceeded to help myself.
- 48 You turn left, I turn left.
- 49 From here we can see the Adriatic Sea.
- 50 Hoping no one would find my sanctuary.
- 51 Who knew he was actually a muskrat?
- 52 Please, take me with you... I don't come empty handed.
- 53 Happy in my new home.
- 54 All was no longer in fog.
- 55 My dacha is 13 storeys higher than yours. (\*)
- 56 This isn't going to work, is it?
- 57 It's getting dark and still I have no shelter.
- 58 I had lain a present at your feet.
- 59 We needed nothing else.
- 60 How did we end up here?
- 61 A fine balancing act went unnoticed at the New York Zoological Gardens.
- 62 A chance meeting at the Café at Vins.
- 63 The Bank vole conquered her fear of heights in Roma.
- 64 The Pigeon River Hotel seemed so very far away.
- 65 The moon above, and all was well.
- 66 I can't see what you are looking for.
- 67 The yellow mud turtle arrived on the Wednesday.
- 68 They were unsure of their new neighbours.
- 69 If you'll now sow the fields you'll make me very happy.
- 70 Everything that reminds me of you makes me unbelievably sad.
- 71 Glued to the one spot.

- 110 Portuguese pinch.  
111 Stumbling in your absence.  
112 Milano two step.  
113 Which way to the daily ferry?

(\*) Collaborative works.

- 72 Room for you and room for me. (\*)  
73 They make their houses in the rocks.  
74 An unlikely pairing.  
75 Please, help me untie my eyelashes.  
76 I never knew I'd miss you.  
77 It had to be said, it reminded them of home.  
78 So happy to have found you.  
79 Jumping not just puddles but whole rivers too.  
80 Yours or mine? Neither could decide.  
81 They formed a circle and I knew not what to do.  
82 Don't mind me, just passing through.  
83 Always the Tiger-cat faces its foe.  
84 From here I can see all I need.  
85 Not from around these parts.  
86 If only the Northern Hopping Mouse thought to look behind him.  
87 Not nearly as terrifying upon closer inspection.  
88 No flop-eared mule, but a bear and cub.  
89 There are too many of you to accommodate.  
90 I return with important trinkets, one for each of you.  
91 The longer I stood there, the less I understood.  
92 Conversations with a numbat.  
93 A charm in your hand for a coin in the pocket  
94 We can't understand why the land is going so cheap here either.  
95 The Emperor stands about three feet in height.  
96 I can't see what you see.  
97 We once watched the grassy plains, now we watch nothing.  
98 A blue faced female Black-naped Monarch whispers the secrets  
of the world to me but I am unimpressed.  
99 She was unsure of her new owl companion.  
100 A new den better than the last.  
101 Treasure before me.  
102 It's too cold in China.  
103 Mirroring the other.  
104 All the fishermen in Riga had missed what I had found.  
105 At the Zoologischer Garten Köln the polar bears are oh so tiny.  
106 It made for a different vantage point.  
107 A small discovery, Guanajuato, Mexico.  
108 A leopard seal was not normally encountered on such walks  
but then nothing felt normal about today.  
109 This is not the home of the lace maker.

*The other stuff on the wall*

52 thaumatropes

Louise Jennison

Double sided circular drawings. Watercolour and pencil on Aquarelle Arches 100% pure cotton hot pressed 300gsm paper, 2007.

{All works \$50 each}

If all the stars go out, I'll follow my nose home.

Gracia Haby

Artists' book. Four colour lithographic offset print on Aquarelle Arches 100% pure cotton hot pressed 300gsm paper. Bound by Louise Jennison in cotton paper with ink stamp. Printed by Redwood Prints. Edition of 10, 2007.

{ \$350 for an edition of 6 prints housed in a slip case. }

\* The slip cases can be seen on the perspex plynth by the window.

All the discarded things, mended.

Gracia Haby

Artists' book. Four colour lithographic offset print on Aquarelle Arches 100% pure cotton hot pressed 300gsm paper. Bound by Louise Jennison in cotton paper with ink stamp. Printed by Redwood Prints. Edition of 10, 2007.

{ \$400 for an edition of 10 prints housed in a slip case. }

\* The slip cases can be seen on the perspex plynth by the window.

I've been here before, I

Gracia Haby & Louise Jennison

Watercolour, pencil and collage on Fabriano traditional white 604gsm paper, 2007.

{ \$200 }

I've been here before, II

Louise Jennison

Watercolour and pencil on Fabriano traditional white 604gsm paper, 2007.

{ \$200 }

*The other stuff on the table*

Rouen: Just passing through

Gracia Haby

Artists' book. A book of single colour, postcard images, Rouen, originally published in Paris as part of the series, France - Pittoresque & Monumentale, has been reworked with elements of collage, pastel and pencil, 2007.

{ \$200 }

Find your place

Gracia Haby

Artists' book. Colour lithographic offset print on Aquarelle Arches 100% pure cotton hot pressed 300gsm paper. 22 page, concertina, bound by Louise Jennison. Printed by Redwood Prints. Edition of 10, 2007.

{ \$250 each }

Don't get around much anymore

Louise Jennison

Colour lithographic offset print hand coloured with pencil on Aquarelle Arches 100% pure cotton hot pressed 300gsm paper. 15 cards with small envelope. Printed by Redwood Prints. Edition of 10, 2007.

{ \$150 each }



Huge thanks to all at Imp for making this exhibition possible. Super gigantic thanks to Elaine & Peter Haby, Susan & John Jennison, and Louise Weaver, for the many, countless things. An extra thank you we send also to Jurate Sasnaitis for her wordy brilliance. And to Shari Altman and Carolyn Fraser, we sing great thanks for the postcards you have sent our way.

Thanks to all our friends & family... that means you, and you, and you.