

## FOREWORD BY EILEEN COOPER

I am inspired by stories. I delight in them, particularly the ones told to me when I was a child. In passing them on to my own children I continue to enjoy them.

'The King of the Cats' is an ambitious collaboration beautifully linking many themes through diverse creative works. It reveals a fantastic landscape rooted firmly in the culture of Lancashire. Here are inviting and fascinating connections between word, image, landscape and Lancashire folk lore.

This book is great for sharing, it is a celebration, resonant with the creativity of its makers, who have explored, re-invented and collected these wonderful tales from the Red Rose County.

**Eileen Cooper RA**  
Artist and Keeper of the Royal Academy

## FOREWORD BY KEVIN CROSSLEY-HOLLAND

Not long ago, I mentored a creative writing course in which participants took their inspiration from traditional tale. One participant (in the person of a boy to whom Death has offered whatever gift he chooses) wrote: 'I want the gift of story; to know every story, every nuance, every inflection...I want the power to give; to share it all; to tell the stories...'

The writer was Jacqueline Harris.

This book (and the travelling exhibition associated with it) is the most wonderful instance of the way in which the vigorous, sometimes absurd, sometimes magical, sometimes frightening old tales can stimulate exciting new work - mixed media installations, painted objects, sculptural porcelain, bronze-and-clay automata. As for Jacqueline's own retellings: read them and delight in their kick and terseness, their lyrical moments, their sense of mystery, their kindness.

It's surely right to call Lancashire a 'storied landscape' and one where tradition survives, as demonstrated in the film (part of the travelling exhibition) made with Graham Kay. But so, too, are many other counties, and I hope this initiative, supported by the Arts Council, will soon be followed by writers and artists elsewhere.

As that boy wrote, once upon a time: 'Story lives in me and out of me. I am the story.'

**Kevin Crossley-Holland**  
Author, Translator and Poet

