

OT (basically) james sallis

The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 15 Apr 2002

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/3149>

Exported from an unofficial mirror of a public mailing list. Copyright in each message remains with the person who wrote it. Email addresses are obscured as `user at host`, the form the original archive published. This file was rebuilt from parsed fields rather than retained headers, so it is faithful in content but not byte-exact.

MBS 808 — 15 Apr 2002, 03:26

I was just introduced to this author I know little about... now he is best known for an unusual "mystery" series he just finished...
he began, among other things, with moorcock at new worlds..

Also (here is the ontopic attempt)

in an interview he said:

The quote I relish most is Gene Wolfe's, used on the hardback edition of Fly here in the States: 'Great writing doesn't consist of doing something better than anyone else can do it, but of doing something no one else can do at all.'

anybody have any comment/recommendations? thanks in advance

Matthew Davis — 15 Apr 2002, 04:23 · follows MBS 808

For more on Sallis - www.jamessallis.com

Sallis started off as one of the New-Wavers when he moved to London, associated with the "New Worlds" set, and two stories in Harlan Ellison's "Again, Dangerous Visions". Thomas M. Disch wrote a story about James Sallis in the early 70s titled "The Master of the Milford Altarpiece" which incorporates material by Sallis himself, and is about writerly aspirations. The English writer Iain Sinclair is a big fan of Sallis; he not only wrote a long piece about him for the "London Review of Books" (<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v21/n06/sinc2106.htm>) he also included him in an experimental film "Asylum" he made with Dave McKean, Mike Moorcock (in dungarees) and Marina Warner (in a hedge).

As a writer Sallis is somewhere on the pared-down Samuels Beckett/Delany axis: very good writing with exquisite apprehension of individual moments, but I find it heavy going actually reaching the end of any of their books. In fact Sallis edited a book about Delany and is also quite an expert on 20th century experimental French lit. I've read almost no standard detective fiction so I have nothing to compare Sallis's "Lew Grade" novels to, I'm afraid. Having moved away from SF in the 70s and 80s, he's become rather more involved recently as one of the book reviewers for F&SF (<http://www.sfsite.com/fsf/depts.htm>).