

# SYLPH EDITIONS



2013

# Stalin is Dead

RACHEL SHIHOR | With a foreword by Nicole Krauss

# STALIN IS DEAD

A collection of forty-five aphorisms and short tales that portray a fantastic and idiosyncratic view of the human condition. Populated by reckless she-goats, morose fish, somnambulistic theologians, poignant old ladies – not to mention dying dictators and dead poets – these edifying stories, with all their sadness and humour, are a writer's *tour de force* and a reader's delight.

Rachel Shihor's *Days Bygone* was translated and published in 2008 by Sylph Editions as part of *The Cahiers Series*. This new collection is an affirmation of the timeless quality of her work and a testimony of her literary vision.

96 pages, 120 x 216 mm, paperback | ISBN 978-0-9569920-8-6 | £11

The  
ART  
MONOGRAPHS

The Art Monographs juxtapose works of art with literary writing. Each publication explores a work of art or the work of an artist. The texts are informative, evocative, and associative; they are a compelling portrayal of what happens when word and image come together.

## The Bill

LÁSZLÓ KRASZNAHORKAI ON PALMA VECCHIO

In one vertiginous eleven-page sentence a lucid voice addresses Maestro Palma Vecchio, that curious Venetian painter who brings to his studio a succession of models and who transforms them on his canvases into exaggerated yet inexplicably desirous women. Why does he do it? How does he do it? And why are they so afraid of him even though he, unlike most of his contemporaries, never touches them? The text sets the question, to which the paintings are the answer.

32 pages, 12 colour images,  
162 x 234 mm, paperback  
ISBN 978-0-9569920-9-3 | £ 9



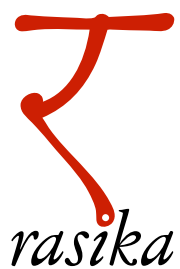
## Mountain / What is the Way Up?

NAVEEN KISHORE ON ANISH KAPOOR'S 'MOUNTAIN'

An exploration of Anish Kapoor's vast aluminium sculpture *Mountain*, made of 120 individual layers of aluminium, the sloping sides of *Mountain* evoke the natural process of formation by erosion, but are also testimony to the sophisticated technology underlying its construction. The assembled whole invites the spectator to partake in a contemplative journey driven by the sculpture's scale, texture and elusive curves. Naveen Kishore has written a three-part theatrical piece to accompany the journey into *Mountain* in which characters act and react, and mostly enact their anguish and surprise at this super-natural presence.

24 pages, 6 colour images,  
240 x 150 mm, paperback  
ISBN 978-0-9569920-1-7 | £ 9





RASIKA is an imprint of Sylph Editions dedicated to the appreciation of aesthetic culture in all its manifestations, past and present, near and far, with an emphasis on Asia.

## Contemplating Rocks

MARCUS FLACKS

Following the success of last year's *Chinese Classical Furniture* – a landmark survey of classical Chinese furniture by Marcus Flacks – Rasika is proud to announce *Contemplating Rocks*: a sumptuous new limited edition by Marcus Flacks that explores the world of Chinese scholars' rocks and rock collecting.

The renowned scholar Robert D. Mowry offers an illuminating background history and leading collectors and artists such as Liu Dan, J. J. Lally, Brice Marden and Nicolas Chow, convey their relationship to a rock of their choice and rocks in general.

This book is a feast to the eye and to the mind. It is richly illustrated with evocative images of rocks and rock collections and enriched with reproductions of original paintings by leading Chinese ink painters such as Liu Dan, Xu Lei and Tai Xiangzhou. It is a book that both novice and expert will be informed by, offering a deeper understanding of the enigmatic and delightful world of scholars' rocks in classical Chinese culture.



190 pages, over 90 colour and black-and-white illustrations  
325 x 270mm, hardback ISBN 978-0-9569920-7-9 | £120

## A Typographic Abecedarium

ORNAN ROTEM



Letterforms are an inseparable part of civilized landscape.

At some distant point in history, letters started life as representations of things in the world. Then, gradually, through a complex evolutionary process, they came to be defined as the closed shapes of a writing system.

This photo-typographic essay is a reflection and meditation on this transition. It looks at the 26 letters of the English edition of the Roman alphabet. Each letterform is shown in four manners: as the world presenting itself in the shape of a letter; as an intended letter in space; as a flat letter on paper, and finally in the manner of a pure geometric form embodied in a typeface.

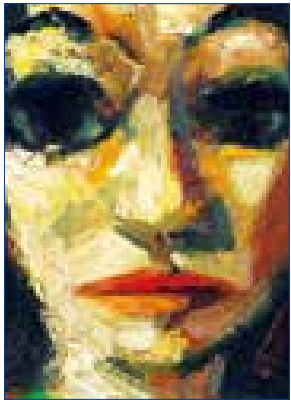
128 pages, 104 images, colour and black-and-white illustrations  
180 x 180mm, paperback ISBN 978-1-9096310-0-7 | £25

# The Cahiers Series

The Cahiers Series is published by Sylph Editions in collaboration with The American University of Paris. The goal of this series is to make available new explorations in writing, in translating, and in the areas linking these two activities.

Each cahier is richly illustrated, is roughly 40 pages, measures 240 x 150mm and costs £12. Cahiers are sold individually or in a boxed set of six for £65.

## FICTION



### **Her Not All Her**

ELFRIEDE JELINEK

*Her Not All Her* is a play about, from, and to the great Swiss writer Robert Walser, by the great Austrian writer and Nobel Prize winner Elfriede Jelinek. It highlights what Jelinek calls 'the fundamental fragmentation' of Walser's voice, revealing Walser as 'one of those people who, when they said "I", did not mean themselves'. The cahier contains an essay by Reto Sorg, the Director of the Robert Walser Centre, and thirteen paintings by the British artist Thomas Newbolt.

ISBN 978-0-9569920-4-8



### **A Labour of Moles**

IVAN VLADISLAVIĆ

'I found myself in the thick of things. I shut my eyes experimentally, opened them again. If I was dreaming, the scene should change - but no, everything was exactly as it had been before.' So begins *A Labour of Moles*, by one of South Africa's most important writers, Ivan Vladislavić: a story which takes the reader into a realm utterly alien and at the same time as familiar as the letters forming the words on the page and the very building-blocks of fiction.

ISBN 978-0-9565092-8-4



### **Animalinside**

LÁSZLÓ KRASZNAHORKAI & MAX NEUMANN

This cahier is the result of a collaboration between a writer and a painter. Hungarian novelist László Krasznahorkai, author of *The Melancholy of Resistance* and *War & War*, responds with fourteen texts to 14 depictions of a strange and ill-formed creature made by the renowned German painter Max Neumann. The texts speak from within the head of Neumann's creature that seems to be menacing existence itself. The cahier is prefaced by Irish novelist Colm Tóibín.

ISBN 978-0-9565092-1-5



### **Days Bygone**

RACHEL SHIHOR

Four excerpts from Rachel Shihor's novella *Yankinton* have been selected, and translated from the Hebrew for this cahier. These poignant and humorous tales are as much about the act of recollection as they are about the remembered Tel Aviv of the 1940s. In a playful and yet muted style, Shihor tells of the everyday life of a child beginning to grasp her surroundings. Six works by the painter David Hendler further explore the city.

ISBN 978-0-9552963-7-6



### **Ballade Nocturne**

GAO XINGJIAN

This cahier publishes for the first time *Ballade Nocturne*, the latest dramatic work by Nobel laureate Gao Xingjian. Written in French, and translated for the Cahiers Series by Claire Conceison, the full text presented here is of a 'libretto for a dance performance'. The cahier contains an introduction by the translator, and reproductions of five ink and wash drawings by Gao Xingjian; it is completed by a booklet with the text in its original French version.

ISBN 978-0-9558896-9-1

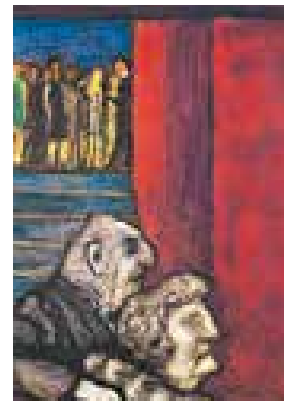


### **Lost and Found**

ALISON LESLIE GOLD

Alison Leslie Gold, known best for her work on Anne Frank and the Holocaust, relates a personal memoir, centred on recent losses of loved ones and on various findings that to some extent offset the losses. This is explored through a series of letters, a meditation on ageing, friendship, and the sort of 'translation' required when writing to the dead. Her text is accompanied by 13 paintings from Charlotte Salomon's timeless masterpiece *Leben? oder Teater?*

ISBN 978-0-9558896-8-4

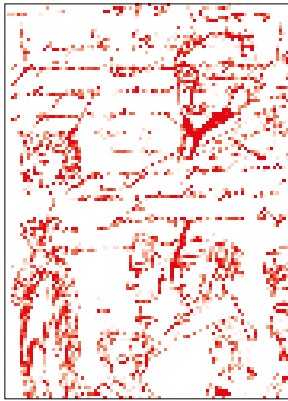


### **Józef Czapski: A Life in Translation**

KEITH BOTSFORD

Józef Czapski (1896-1993) was an artist, author, critic, and one of the founders of the influential Polish emigré monthly *Kultura* (published in Paris until 2000). But who was the real Czapski? This cahier is a bold attempt by Keith Botsford to answer this question. Violating convention, he attempts to write Czapski's autobiography, or a 'biography from within'. Besides Czapski's own words, twelve of his paintings bear testimony to this momentous life.

ISBN 978-0-9558896-4-6



### **Translating Music**

RICHARD PEVEAR

The first volume in the series is by one of the most renowned contemporary translators into English. He discusses his recent experience of translating Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, and offers alongside his illuminating essay a wonderful rendition of Pushkin's long poem *The Tale of the Preacher and His Man Bumpkin*. The cahier is accompanied by reproductions of Pushkin's own drawings.

ISBN 978-0-9552963-1-4

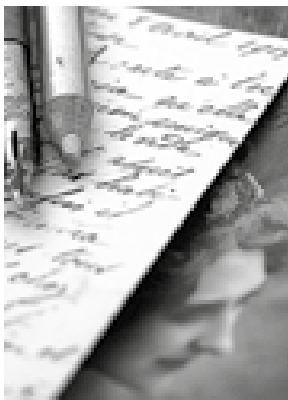


### **Walking on Air**

MURIEL SPARK

Nine short pieces by Muriel Spark: notes and reflections, dreams, diary entries, stories, a translation, and even a photograph she took in 1988. Assembled by Dan Gunn and Penelope Jardine, this cahier is not only a timely reminder of Sparks' broad range of interests, but also of her wit, humour and literary sensitivity.

ISBN 978-0-9552963-2-1



### **Proust, Blanchot and a Woman in Red**

LYDIA DAVIS

Following her acclaimed translation of *Swann's Way*, Lydia Davis offers a partial alphabet of Proust translation problems – and their solutions. She muses on the near-impossibility of summarising works by Maurice Blanchot, and ends with a group of short narratives that explore the space between dream and waking reality. This cahier is a wondrous adventure into the perils and delights of translating, of reading – and of dreaming.

ISBN 978-0-9552963-5-2

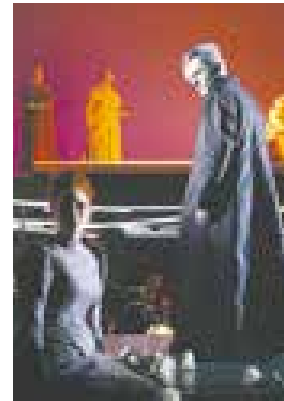


### **Notes from the Hall of Uselessness**

SIMON LEYS

Simon Leys, novelist, unflinching cultural and political commentator, Sinologist, and occasional illustrator, presents here timely meditations on the experience and hazards of literary translation. Preceding his essay are observations on everything from demented tyrants to musical geniuses who gain insights from vacuum cleaners. Leys is rightly renowned for his wisdom, his insight, and his linguistic and literary expertise.

ISBN 978-0-9558896-3-9

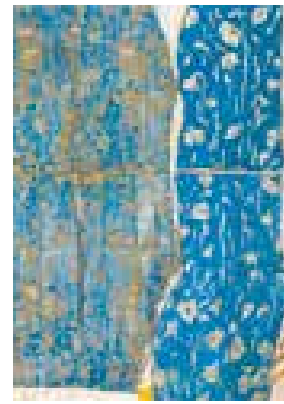


### **Circles of Silence**

J. HARVEY & J.-C. CARRIÈRE

The opera *Wagner Dream*, by composer Jonathan Harvey, premiered in 2007. In this cahier, Harvey discusses with his librettist Jean-Claude Carrière the ideas underlying the opera and, in a detailed essay about the undecidability of music, reveals the opera's Buddhist leitmotifs. With images from the opera and explanatory marginalia, this cahier offers a clear insight into the work of one of the foremost contemporary composers of electro-acoustic music.

ISBN 978-0-9552963-3-8

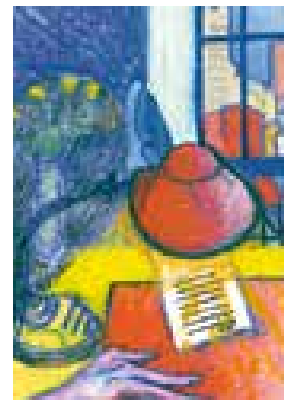


### **Text and Textile**

ISABELLA DUCROT

Isabella Ducrot is a Roman textile artist and painter, who in this cahier presents reflections on the nature of textile and weaving which arise both from her major textile collection and from her close reading of mythology and art history. Her meditations are illustrated by her own art and are introduced by a specially-written poem by the celebrated Italian poet Patrizia Cavalli.

ISBN 978-0-9552963-6-9



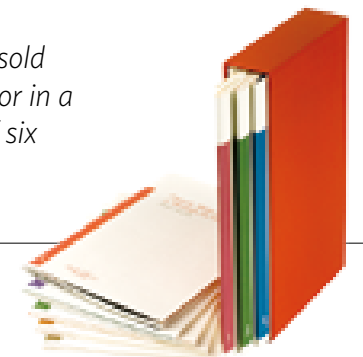
### **In the Thick of Things**

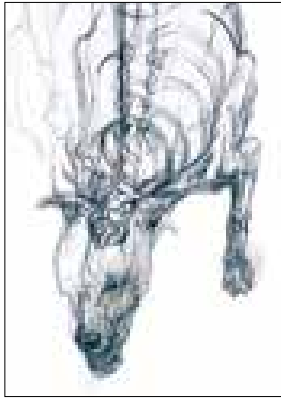
VINCEN CORNU

Vincen Cornu, a Paris-based architect, attempts to 'translate' architectural sensations into words and images, in order to convey the inspirations behind his work and the ways in which buildings, and the spaces they create, can offer journeys of imaginative discovery. He takes the reader back to early theories of architecture, through topics as diverse as skyscrapers, railway tracks, and grain barns in northern Spain and the works of masters in the field.

ISBN 978-0-9558896-7-7

*Cahiers are sold individually or in a boxed set of six*



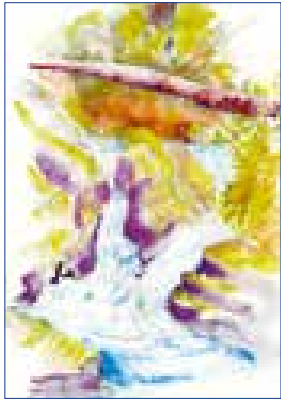


## When The Pie Was Opened

PAUL MULDOON

This cahier presents new work by the celebrated Irish poet Paul Muldoon: four original works, 'The Windshield', 'Balls' (a five-sonnet sequence), 'Quail', and 'When the Pie Was Opened'. Interspersed with these are the poet's translations: from Latin, from Anglo-Saxon, from Medieval Welsh, from Greek, and from Irish. The cahier is completed by drawings and an etching by the Sicilian artist Lanfranco Quadrio.

ISBN 978-0-9552963-8-3



## Shades of the Other Shore

JEFFREY GREENE AND RALPH PETTY

A collaboration between writer Jeffrey Greene and artist Ralph Petty who share rural American beginnings, but have since discovered a new life in France, in the sparsely populated areas of Burgundy and the Ardèche. This cahier offers a deep mapping of their adopted regions: Greene's poems explore imagined correspondences between personal and historical ghosts tied to the seasons; Petty's watercolours record a journey to the source of a local river.

ISBN 978-0-9569920-6-2

## The Nobile Folios

The *Nobile Folios* are a set of five monographic explorations of 20th- and 21st-century works of art. Each publication deals with one work, and one work only, and explores it in sections and as a whole. The juxtaposed texts are informative associations, obvious or oblique and enhance our appreciation of the work.



- 1 **Bathers** (Mark Gertler) with 'Trees at a Sanatorium' by Shaun Levin
- 2 **Vernet's Dance Hall** (Walter Sickert) with 'Daily Mirror' by Bethan Stevens
- 3 **Linked Figures** (Kenneth Armitage) with 'Aristophanes on Eros' by Plato
- 4 **St Paul's from Moor Lane** (Cyril Mann) with 'As Flies to Wanton Boys' by Veronica Cecil
- 5 **Sunflowers** (Peter Coker) with 'Meditations' by Carrie Etter

5 x 32 pages (total 160 pages) in a slipcase  
239 x 282mm ISBN 978-1-9096310-1-4 | £35

## The Seafarer

Translated from the Anglo-Saxon by **AMY RIACH**  
with illustrations from original monoprints by **JILA PEACOCK**



*The Seafarer* is one of a group of Anglo-Saxon poems found in the *Codex Exoniensis*, compiled around 970 CE, and one of the largest surviving collections of Old English literature.

The poem tells the story of life's apparent futility through the words of a lone mariner. Amy Riach's new translation from the original Anglo-Saxon offers us a chance to sense this abiding song that speaks to us through the long tunnel of time.

In the year 2000, Artist Jila Peacock and composer Sally

Beamish collaborated on a multimedia piano trio based on the poem, and in this large-format limited edition, all of Jila Peacock's magisterial monoprints are reproduced alongside the poem. Together they create a formidable publication that like her previous *Ten Poems from Hafez*, celebrates the happy marriage of text and image.



### LIMITED EDITION

24 pages, 12 hand-printed duotone prints on bamboo paper | 340 x 460mm | Sewn signatures with cover and dust wrapper in a lush slipcase | Editions 1-88: £285  
Editions A-L (with original print by Jila Peacock): £395



# SYLPH EDITIONS

SYLPH EDITIONS publish fiction, monographs, theoretical essays, limited-edition art and photography books, and different forms of experimental writing. The publications are presented either as individual books or as an ongoing series. The emphasis is on works in which image and text coexist, conceived as one. Every work is meticulously produced, care given equally to content and to form.