

SYLPH EDITIONS



2015

Saul Leiter

PAINTED NUDES

In the early 2000s, Saul Leiter came to the fore as one of the most accomplished and surprising colour photographers of the 20th century. Books were published, films made and exhibitions launched. While it was never a secret, few of those who are familiar with Leiter's photography are aware that over the years he created, in his own unhurried way, a yet-to-be appreciated and equally formidable body of paintings and painted photographs. As the first ever publication dedicated to this largely unknown part of Leiter's oeuvre, *Painted Nudes* offers a selection of more than 70 painted photographs – intimate, brilliantly coloured pieces that marry Leiter's two artistic passions. Produced over the course of four decades, these fiercely expressive nudes are a testament to Leiter's intuitive sense of colour and composition, and showcase a great 20th century artist at his resplendent best.

Painted Nudes seeks not only to celebrate, but to illuminate this unique body of work by juxtaposing the painted nudes with a selection of quotes from works of literature. Taking its cue from Leiter's own work, the book straddles the boundaries between genres, inviting readers to discover their connections and resonances. Lush, evocative and associative, *Painted Nudes* is as stimulating to the eye as it is for the mind.

SAUL LEITER
PAINTED NUDES
ART & PHOTOGRAPHY
MORE THAN 70 COLOUR IMAGES
160 PAGES 218 X 256MM
HARDBACK
ISBN 978-1-90963106-9
£35

FOREWORD BY
MARGIT ERB
Director, Saul Leiter Foundation

INTRODUCTION BY
MONA GAINER-SALIM





Ornan Rotem

A TYPO- GRAPHIC ABECEDARIUM

In this photographic essay the author explores the relationship between typography and the visual world around us. Each letter of the English version of the Roman alphabet is refracted, appearing in four dimensions: 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. Familiar letter forms are presented in fresh, surprising ways, forming an homage to the beauty of type and a reflection on its ubiquity in our visual understanding of the world. In addition to the original photography and the inspiring reproductions of printed matter, the book and its underlying idea are lucidly explained and elaborated in an overview and a detailed discussion of each letter. Text and image coalesce to create a modern day primer on letters: a typographic abecedarium.

ORNAN ROTEM
A TYPOGRAPHIC ABECEDARIUM
ART & PHOTOGRAPHY
104 COLOUR IMAGES
136 PAGES | 180 X 180MM
SOFTBACK WITH FLAPS
ISBN 978-1-90963100-7
£25

SUMMER 2015



Marlene van Niekerk

THE SWAN WHISPERER

In this cahier, Marlene van Niekerk tells the story of a pale, anxious creative writing student, Kasper Olwagen, and his strange encounter with the phenomenon of translation in the person of the Swan Whisperer. Through gathered letters and recordings, van Niekerk recounts Olwagen's discovery of a vagrant who summons swans from Amsterdam's canals, while never uttering a single intelligible word. *The Swan Whisperer* probes the relationship between language and living, translation and writing, stories and truth. From an obsession with words to an obsession with dismantling them, van Niekerk explores what stirs humans to translate. A story of doubles, cadences and murmurings, this cahier delves into the playfulness of sound in Afrikaans, and the often perplexing task of learning to listen, decipher and understand.

William Kentridge's black-and-white prints form a fantastical accompaniment to van Niekerk's peculiar fable. Birds, mammals and human figures are thrust into loose spatial arrangements, struggling, like Olwagen, to orient themselves in a newly rearranged world.

MARLENE VAN NIEKERK

THE SWAN WHISPERER

THE CAHIERS SERIES [NO. 25]

12 COLOUR IMAGES

40 PAGES | 240 X 150MM

SEWN PAPERBACK WITH DUST JACKET

ISBN 978-1-90963110-6

£12

AUTUMN 2015

SERIES: 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.



Lisa Davidson and Ralph Petty

BREATHING UNDERWATER

The newest addition to *The Art Monographs* is the result of a collaboration between poet Lisa Davidson and artist Ralph Petty. Conceived as one, the poems and drawings tell of a duplicitous world in which dream may become nightmare, and beauty terror, in the blink of an eye. Theirs is a realm of shifting shapes and organic forms, saturated with a surfeit of life that seems variously splendid and miraculous, ruthless and inevitable. The natural world features strongly; we encounter storm-beaten trees, tired butterflies and panicked sheep. Yet the human world is never far away, a relentless presence that changes and exhausts all that comes into contact with it.

Davidson's texts find a haunting echo in Petty's dream-like ink wash drawings (Petty's work also appears alongside Jeffrey Greene's poems in *Cahier 20, Shades of the Other Shore*). *Breathing Underwater* reveals the convergence of two minds on one theme, discovering in each drawing-poem pair the rich cross-pollination between the visual and the verbal.

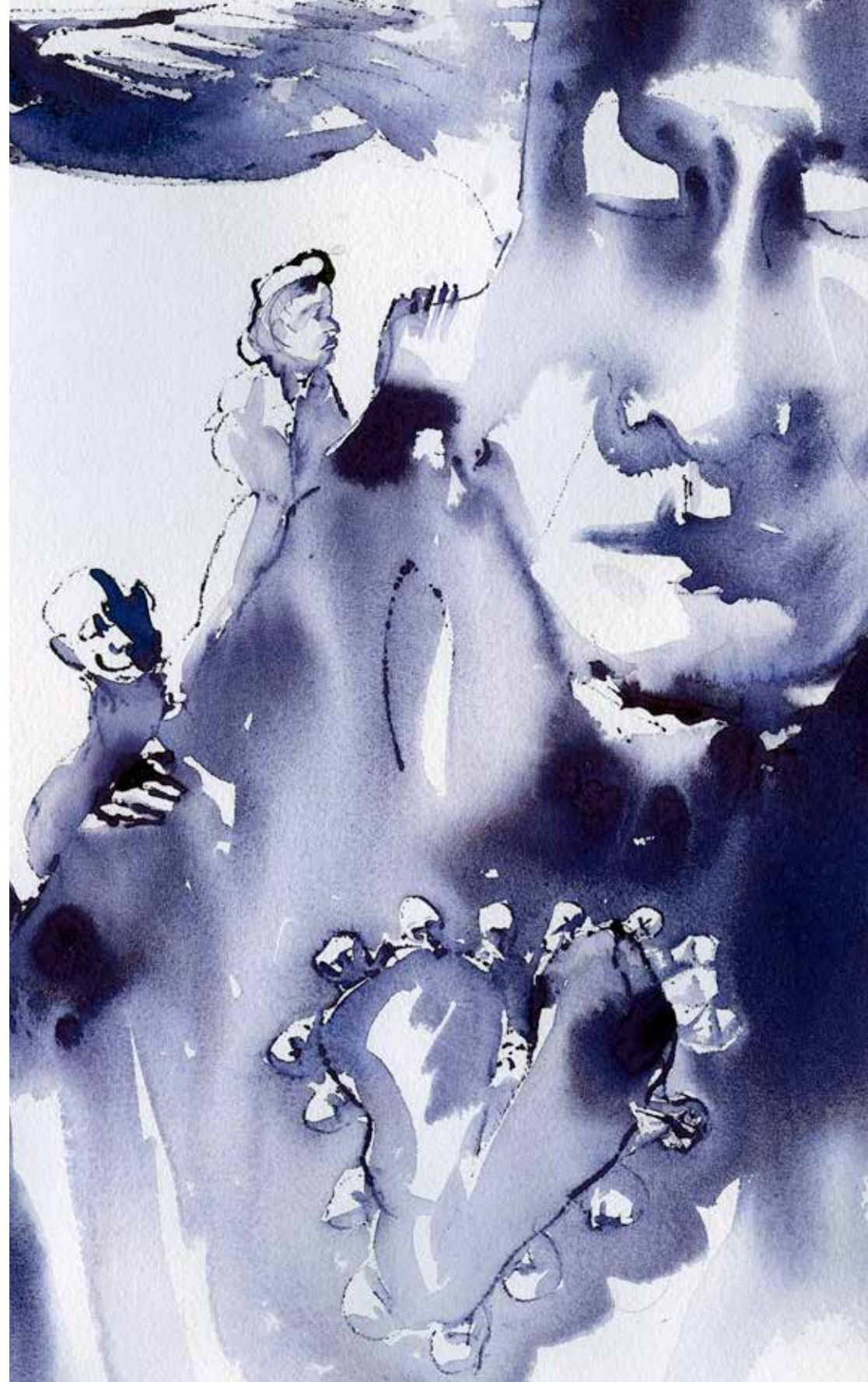
TEXT BY LISA DAVIDSON
BREATHING UNDERWATER
DRAWINGS BY RALPH PETTY
THE ART MONOGRAPHS [NO. 4]

32 IMAGES
72 PAGES | 310 X 225MM
PAPERBACK
ISBN 978-1-90963115-1
£24

WINTER 2015

SERIES: 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 coalesce.



Rachel Shihor

STALIN IS DEAD

Stories and aphorisms on animals,
poets and other earthly creatures

RE-ISSUED IN DUAL LANGUAGE FORMAT

With a foreword by Nicole Krauss

Translated by Ornan Rotem

In this playfully designed dual language edition, Rachel Shihor's stories – published here for the first time in the original Hebrew – appear alongside Ornan Rotem's translation into English. Shihor offers a medley of aphorisms, flash fiction and short stories, carving out a slice of the world in which Kafka would feel at home. The characters that inhabit this world – reckless she-goats, morose fish, somnambulistic theologians, poignant old ladies, dying dictators and dead poets, to name but a few – have nothing in common save for the fact that they instruct us on the human condition. These edifying stories, with all their sadness and humour, are a writer's tour de force and a reader's delight. Interspersed throughout the text are typograms by the translator that take their inspiration from both the Hebrew and Roman alphabets.

RACHEL SHIROR

STALIN IS DEAD

DUAL LANGUAGE EDITION

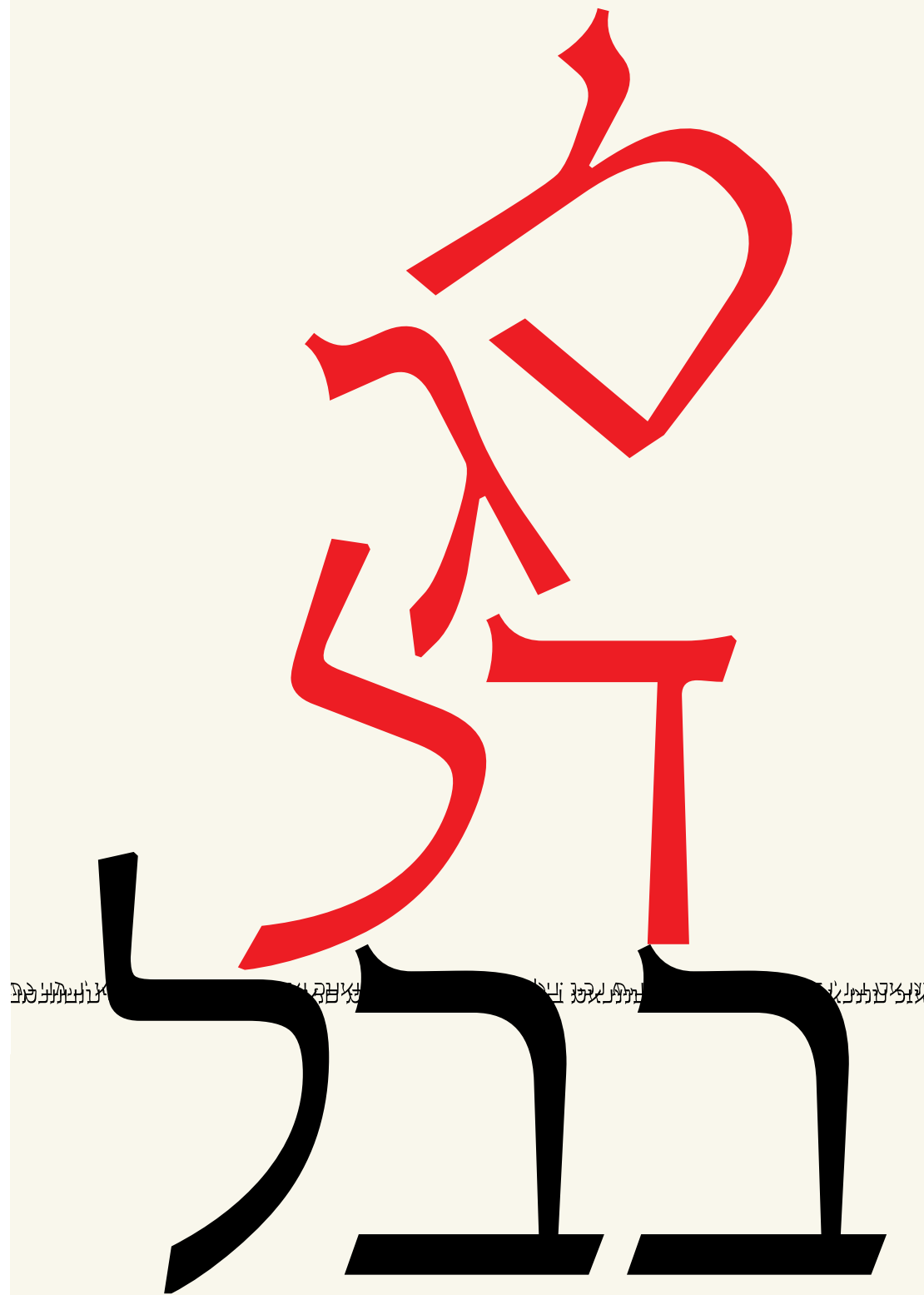
LITERATURE

140 PAGES | 120 X 216MM

PAPERBACK

ISBN 978-1-90963114-4

£15



Franco Nasi

TRANS- LATOR'S BLUES

An Italian naïf from the town of Reggio Emilia travels America and his home province, reflecting as he does on the oddity of what he finds. Through his unguarded eyes, the world is revealed in all its fundamental strangeness, pathos and humour. If there are 'blues' to be heard, then this is partly because any description or explanation, however successful it may be, is bound to go awry when it is required to pass into another language. At once story and reflection, essay and narrative, this cahier by one of Italy's most eminent translators and translation theorists is a celebration of the space between languages, which both unites and divides us.

FRANCO NASI

TRANSLATOR'S BLUES

THE CAHIERS SERIES [NO. 26]

12 COLOUR IMAGES

40 PAGES | 240 X 150MM

SEWN PAPERBACK WITH DUST JACKET

ISBN 978-1-90963111-3

£12

AUTUMN 2015

SERIES: THE CAHIERS SERIES

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*To travel
hopefully is
a better thing
than to
arrive ...*

STEVENSON

Maureen Freely

ANGRY IN PIRAEUS

In this cahier, Maureen Freely explores the meandering childhood journeys between countries and languages that eventually led her to become a translator. She offers rich descriptions of her itinerant upbringing in America, Turkey and Greece, vividly evoking what it means to be constantly commuting between worlds – geographical, conceptual, linguistic, and literary – in search of a home, or a self, that is proving elusive. She tells of her transition from novelist to translator – specifically, the English translator of Nobel Prize winner Orhan Pamuk – and of how eventually she found it necessary to give up translating Pamuk in order to return to her own fictional worlds.

Freely's meditations are accompanied by the evocative collages of Rie Iwatake, a Japanese artist with her own experiences moving between cultures. The resulting book is an unforgettable meditation on translation, writing, and life itself.

MAUREEN FREELY

ANGRY IN PIRAEUS

THE CAHIERS SERIES [NO. 24]

12 COLOUR IMAGES

40 PAGES | 240 X 150MM

SEWN PAPERBACK WITH DUST JACKET

ISBN 978-90963113-7

£12

SERIES: 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.



Anna Sun

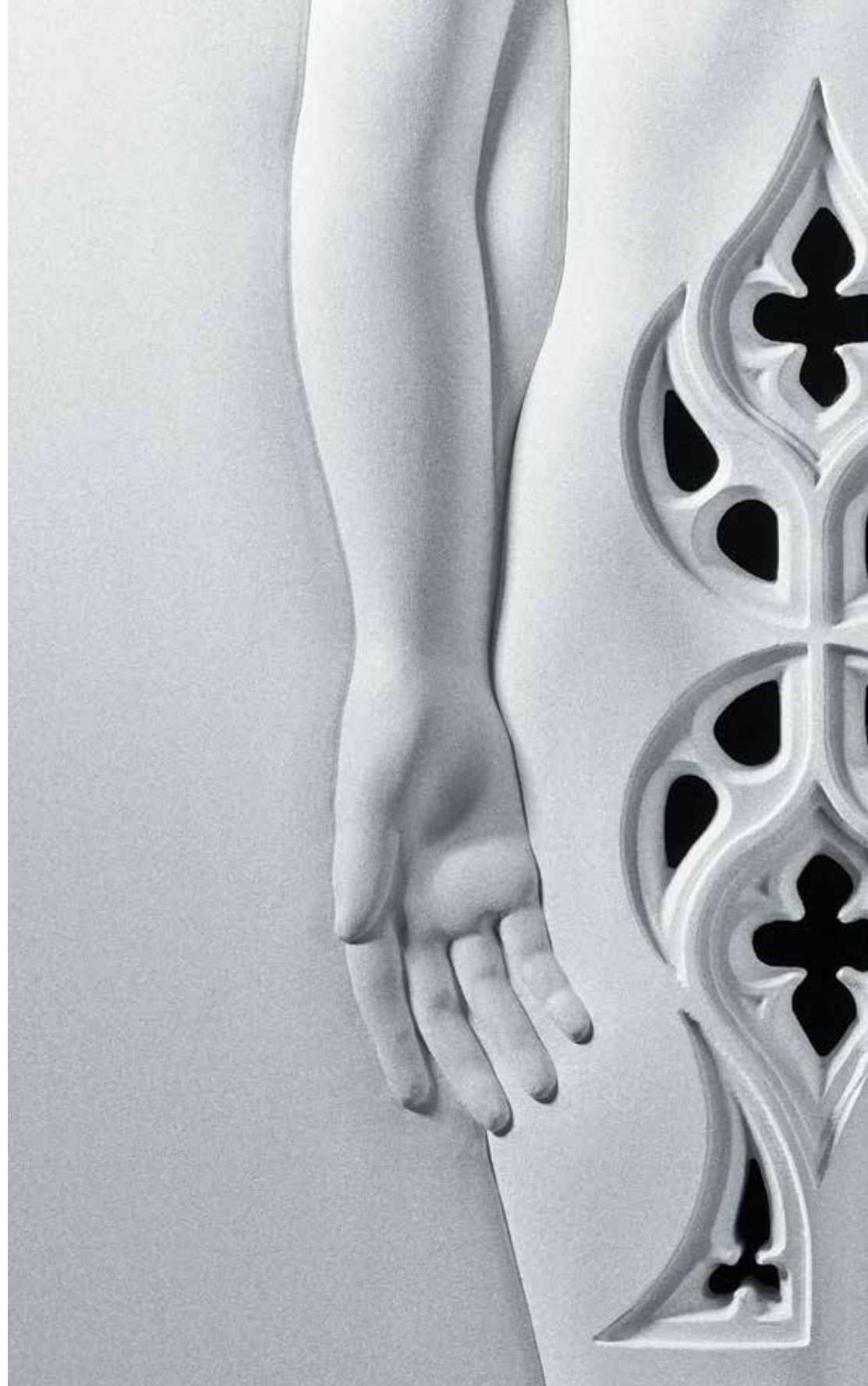
DREAMERS OF THE ABSOLUTE

A Book of Hours

A young woman, dreaming of love and yearning to know what love is, drives up to a Trappist monastery in rural Kentucky, seeking her older brother who has taken the vows of a novice. She spends seven days of unplanned contemplation interspersed between the seven prayers that punctuate the monastery's daily routine. Insights and recollections come and go like the ebb and flow of the tide. In her silent enclosure she asks herself who she is, what she wants, and what she believes.

Anna Sun poses seemingly unanswerable questions, but like an illuminated book of hours this sensitive novella – beautifully adorned by photographs of Bee Flower's magnificent bas-reliefs – seems to point to where an answer might lie.

ANNA SUN
DREAMERS OF THE ABSOLUTE
LITERATURE
12 COLOUR IMAGES
124 PAGES 120 X 216MM
PAPERBACK
ISBN 978-1-90963108-3
£14



László Krasznahorkai

THE BILL

For Palma Vecchio, at Venice

Translated by George Szirtes

In *The Bill*, László Krasznahorkai's madly lucid voice pours forth in a single, vertiginous, 14-page sentence addressing Palma Vecchio, a 16th-century Venetian painter. Peering out from the pages are Vecchio's voluptuous, bare-breasted blondes, a succession of models transformed on the canvas into portraits of apprehensive sexuality. Alongside these women, the writer that Susan Sontag called 'the Hungarian master of apocalypse' interrogates Vecchio's gift: Why does he do it? How does he do it? And why are these models so afraid of him even though he, unlike most of his contemporaries, never touches them? The text engages with the art, asking questions only the paintings can answer.

LÁSZLÓ KRASZNAHORKAI

THE BILL

THE ART MONOGRAPHS [NO. 2]

12 COLOUR IMAGES

32 PAGES | 215 X 153MM

SEWN SOFTBACK

ISBN 978-0-95699209-3

£10

SERIES: 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 coalesce.



Marcus Flacks

CUSTODIANS OF THE SCHOLAR'S WAY

Chinese Scholars' Objects in Precious Woods

In this major study of classical Chinese scholars' objects, Marcus Flacks continues his explorations into the great traditions of Chinese artisanal art. *Custodians of the Scholar's Way* is the third part of a triptych, preceded by *Classical Chinese Furniture* and *Contemplating Rocks*.

Learned and accessible, this lush publication examines and contextualizes more than 200 masterpieces in wood, all forming part of the classical Chinese scholar's studio. This wondrous collection of objects is organized around five traditional models of the scholar's studio, thereby creating a book that is both a history and a spatial geography of a great tradition.

MARCUS FLACKS

CUSTODIANS OF THE SCHOLAR'S WAY

IMPRINT: RASIKA

OVER 300 COLOUR AND B/W IMAGES

480 PAGES | 315 X 260 MM

OTABOUND SOFTBACK

ISBN 978-1-90963104-5

REGULAR EDITION: £140

ALSO AVAILABLE IN A BOXED SPECIAL & LIMITED EDITION. PLEASE INQUIRE

IMPRINT: RASIKA

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.



FROM THE BACK- LIST



PAUL GRIFFITHS
THE TILTED CUP
THE CAHIERS SERIES [NO. 22]
10 COLOUR IMAGES
44 PAGES 240 X 150MM
SEWN PAPERBACK WITH DUST JACKET
ISBN 978-1-909631032-1
£12

Paul Griffiths takes a series of eleven Japanese noh plays and transforms them into stories in English. The reader will encounter spirit-beings set free, lovers lost and found, dreams and desires fulfilled, lessons learned from nature, and always a longing for the infinite, as the long, slow drama of each noh play is transformed into a short and moving tale. Interspersed and contrasting with the stories are ten photographs of contemporary Japan by John L. Tran that also explore the relation between theatricality and narrative, while offering hints of a very different vision of infinitude.



AMY RIACH & JILA PEACOCK
THE SEAFARER
THE ART MONOGRAPH SERIES [NO. 03]
12 B/W IMAGES
24 PAGES 214 X 306MM
SOFTBACK
ISBN 978-1-90963105-2
£16

Following the success of the 2010 limited edition, we are offering a new paperback edition of *The Seafarer* as part of *The Art Monographs* series. *The Seafarer* is one of a group of Anglo-Saxon poems found in the Exeter Book, the largest surviving collection of Old English literature. The poem tells the story of life's apparent futility through the words of a lone mariner. Amy Riach's strong and expressive new translation seems to empower the voice of the Seafarer. Her careful and informed attention to the original Anglo-Saxon, combined with an intense poetic sensibility, offers us an abiding 'song,' which speaks to us through the long tunnel of time.

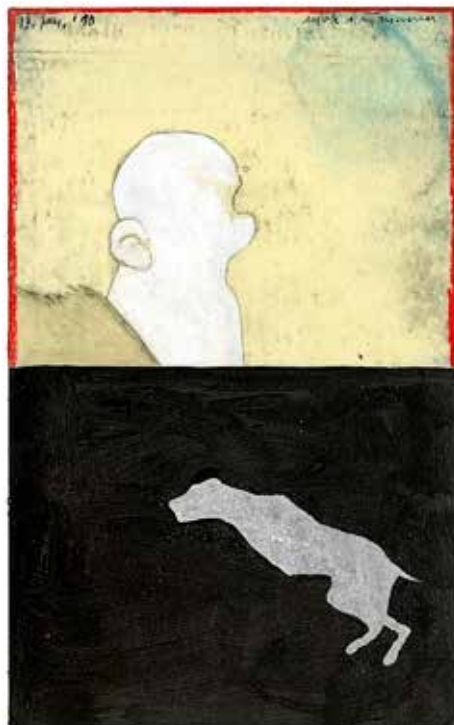


IDRA NOVEY
CLARICE: THE VISITOR
THE CAHIERS SERIES [NO. 23]
9 COLOUR IMAGES
40 PAGES 240 X 150MM
SEWN PAPERBACK WITH DUST JACKET
ISBN 978-1-90963107-6
£12

In this cahier, American poet Idra Novey explores multiple notions of translation through two sequences of poems. In the first sequence, 'Letters to C', she directly addresses the figure and the words of a writer she recently translated, Brazilian visionary Clarice Lispector. In the second, 'Regarding Marmalade, Cognates, and Visitors', Novey looks at the connections between language, translation, and the hosting of visitors, including her newborn son. Idra Novey's texts are in conversation with images by the artist Erica Baum – images of books that seem both to invite and resist attempts to read them.



ANNE CARSON
NAY RATHER
 THE CAHIERS SERIES [NO. 21]
 16 COLOUR IMAGES
 44 PAGES | 240 X 150MM
 SEWN PAPERBACK WITH DUST JACKET
 ISBN 978-1-90963103-8
 £12



LÁSZLÓ KRASZNAHORKAI & MAX NEUMANN
ANIMALINSIDE
 THE CAHIERS SERIES [NO. 14]
 14 COLOUR IMAGES
 40 PAGES | 240 X 150MM
 SEWN PAPERBACK WITH DUST JACKET
 ISBN 978-0-95650921-5
 £12

This cahier unites two texts by celebrated poet Anne Carson, encouraging readers to experience them alongside each other. 'Variations on the Right to Remain Silent' is an essay on the stakes involved when translation happens, ranging from Homer through Joan of Arc to Paul Celan; it includes seven translations by Carson of a poetic fragment from the Greek poet Ibykos. 'By Chance the Cycladic People' is a poem about Cycladic culture where the order of the lines has been determined by a random number generator. The cahier is illustrated by Lanfranco Quadrio's drawings and gouaches, inspired by his reading of Anne Carson's texts.

This cahier is the result of a collaboration undertaken specially for *The Cahiers Series*, between Hungarian novelist László Krasznahorkai and German painter Max Neumann. Krasznahorkai, author of *The Melancholy of Resistance* and *War & War*, responds with 14 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 novelist Colm Tóibín.



THE NOBILE FOLIOS
 [NOS. 1-5]
 55 COLOUR IMAGES
 168 PAGES | 239 X 282MM
 FIVE SEWN SOFTBACKS IN SLIP CASE
 £35

The Nobile Folios are monographic explorations of 20th- and 21st-century works of art published by Sylph Editions in association with Piano Nobile – a London art gallery. Each publication explores one work, and one work only, overcoming thereby

some of the inherent limitations of reproducing great art in print. Juxtaposed with the work are texts that play loosely with associations and words that might come to mind when one gazes at the artwork.

Available only directly from the Sylph Edition's website.

- 1 BATHERS BY MARK GERTLER | 'TREES AT A SANATORIUM' BY SHAUN LEVIN**
 An exploration of a Gertler painting from his period of intensive research into Cézanne.
- 2 VERNET'S DANCE HALL BY WALTER SICKERT | 'DAILY MIRROR' BY BETHAN STEVENS**
 An exploration of a Sickert painting, showing the artist at his most ambiguous.
- 3 LINKED FIGURES BY KENNETH ARMITAGE | 'ARISTOPHANES ON EROS' BY PLATO**
 Aristophanes' celebrated speech on the origin of love set against the sculptural forms of *Linked Figures*.
- 4 ST PAUL'S FROM MOOR LANE BY CYRIL MANN | 'AS FLIES TO WANTON BOYS' BY VERONICA CECIL AND 'CYRIL MANN'S POST-WAR CITYSCAPES' BY MARK HUDSON**
 Post-war London seen through Mann's perceptive gaze, enhanced by an essay and a story.
- 5 SUNFLOWERS BY PETER COKER | 'MEDITATIONS' BY CARRIE ETTER**
 A meditation on Coker's powerful vision of still life painting

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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 part of 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.