

Manifesto

I saw the flowers of a face abloom
 in the branches of an old age, whole bouquets of the face
 passing by via the arcade of memory. They appeared
 for a moment, for a split second, and walked on through me
 in long processions from childhood
 till youth, rushing,
 or stopped in admiration, in awe.
 Paused for a moment of terror
 or anger. Ah, to absorb them completely
 to grasp beauty. Absorb through eyes
 or mouth, like the Host,
 before the mind begins its futile work.
 With a single glance
 embrace it all, and not wake up
 for sleep, but for their brilliance.
 2019

Kuferlin

In memory of Janusz Jęczyżyk

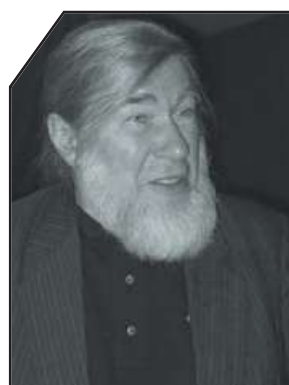
The bread we fed on must have been mad.
 Someone ate it with confidence at first, then jumped up,
 shattered on the bridge and fell like a sack
 full of guilt. Others got stuck in the swampy air,
 glasses swelling in their hands. We had plenty of bread
 and that's why we slept through all these battles
 with our awakening at stake. From whose mouth
 did we pull out this delayed deposit,
 which the sea ate as well, greedily, as if it knew
 that a fast will come quickly, and the earth,
 is it still fit for the shovel?

June 2, 2012

On the Edge

I have learned to live on the edge,
 on the edge between the invisible
 and the visible.
 I touch objects
 but they don't belong to me anymore.
 It's me who belongs to them.
 Like a blind man I grope
 their visible and invisible shapes.
 I don't know if I am a cloud
 floating by underfoot, or the ground
 that tramples the cloud.
 Life passes like a mad cloud
 that feeds on rain.
 I know that one day
 I'll hide under the bed
 and cry.
October 23, 2016

Translated by Piotr Florczyk



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KRZYSZTOF KARASEK

Born 1937

Wzgórza anarchii [*The Hills of Anarchy*]

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Selected poetry collections

Przyszedł człowiek, żeby chłostać morze, 2017

Dziennik rozbitka, 2012

Wiatrołomy, 2011

Poeta nie spóźnia się na poemat, 1991

Trzy poematy, 1982

Prywatna historia ludzkości, 1979

Godzina jastrzębi, 1970

Krzysztof Karasek is also the author of novels, as well as essays on literature.

Foreign language translations

Karasek's poetry collections have been published in Italy and Romania. His poems have also been translated into Dutch, English, French, German, Hungarian, Portuguese, and Spanish and published in anthologies.

Selected awards

Konstanty Ildefons Gałczyński Poetry Prize ORPHEUS (2012; finalist in 2014)

Wisława Szymborska Award – nomination (2013)

Literary Award of the Capital City of Warsaw (2013)