LEV RUBINSTEIN

Compleat Catalogue of Comedic Novelties

Almost ten years ago UDP published Catalogue of Comedic Novelties, a selection of Lev Rubinstein’s “note-card poems”—a seminal body of work from one of the major figures of Moscow Conceptualism. Rubinstein called his note-card poems a “hybrid genre”: part play, part novel, part lyric poem.

This edition collects all of Rubinstein’s note-card poems, and includes a preface by American poet Catherine Wagner, an introduction by translator Philip Metres, as well as an essay by the author himself.

Now Rubinstein’s complete card-catalog of “comedic novelties” has been re-opened—in a precise and sensitive translation by Philip Metres and Tatiana Tulchinsky—to the English reader.

"Rubinstein’s work … drives a wedge between cultural production and the culturally produced … [letting] me acknowledge both my human emotion and its quoted, cultural ground.
— CATHARINE WAGNER, GALATEA RESURRECTS

"Lev Rubinstein’s note-card poems … are an eye-opener.
— MARJORIE PERLOFF

Born in 1947, Lev Rubinstein is among Russia’s most well-known living contemporary poets. He was a major figure of Moscow Conceptualism and the unofficial Soviet art scene in the 1970s and 1980s. Rubinstein lives in Moscow and writes cultural criticism for the independent media. His English-language books include Catalogue of Comedic Novelties (UDP, 2004), and Thirty-Five New Pages (UDP, 2011) both translated by Philip Metres and Tatiana Tulchinsky.

Philip Metres is a poet and a winner of the Arab American Book Award among other honors. In addition to Rubinstein’s works, he has translated Sergey Gandlevsky’s A Kindred Orphanhood for Zephyr Press.

Tatiana Tulchinsky is an award-winning translator. Her translations include Anna Politkovskaya’s A Small Corner of Hell, An Anthology of Russian Verse, and The Selected Works of Venedict Erofeev.