Clark Coolidge

THIS TIME WE ARE BOTH

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Written in 1991, this previously unpublished work dates back to the publication of such seminal books as The Crystal Text, At Egypt, and Odes to Roba. Based on Coolidge’s trips to St. Petersburg, This Time We Are Both uses a dense stream-of-conscious style that employs a fragmentary, often reverse syntax that is a hallmark of his poetics. Phrases and images leap between lines to evoke a heady mix of anxiety and paranoia that document and respond to the collapse of the Soviet Union and a city on the verge of starvation and deterioration.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Clark Coolidge was born in Rhode Island in 1939. His first full-length collection of poems was Flag Flutter & U.S. Electric (1966). In the early 70’s he was included in the An Anthology of New York Poets and L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E magazine. One of the seminal figures of experimental poetry, Coolidge was one of the leading authors on This Press, Sun and Moon Press, and United Artists Books. A life-long jazz musician, his poetics explores a linguistics of the visual and sound through reductive combinations of layered images that are both meticulously composed yet seemingly improvisational

“Clark Coolidge’s This Time We Are Both is a pyrotechnic fumble through the dark. The words pop with knowledge that has nothing to do with novelty or theory; rather this is a book about how to look, how to balance the body on the legs, how to shake a leg to language. It is at once an elegy to Leningrad and an aubade to St. Petersburg.” —STAN APPS

“This Time We Are Both is a brilliant sounding of the question that surrounds us wherever we are, whenever we are.... To hear Coolidge’s music is to fall into its grace.” —PETER GIZZI

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ABOUT UGLY DUCKLING PRESSE

Ugly Duckling Presse is a nonprofit art and publishing collective producing small to mid-size editions of new poetry, translations, lost works and artist books. For more about UDP, visit www.uglyducklingpresse.org.

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