

Jon Cotner and Andy Fitch TEN WALKS/TWO TALKS

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Poetry/Nonfiction

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Ten Walks/Two Talks combines a series of sixty-minute, sixty-sentence walks around Manhattan with a pair of roving dialogues—one of which takes place during a late-night “philosophical” ramble through Central Park. Mapping 21st-century New York, Cotner and Fitch update the meandering and meditative form of Basho’s travel diaries to construct a descriptive/dialogic fugue.

“Perambulating with Jon Cotner and Andy Fitch in *Ten Walks/Two Talks* makes me wonder if conversation leads anywhere, nowhere, or everywhere. Their meandering is an aesthetic and intellectual stretch, since they walk and think artfully, poetry in motion. Maybe 21st-century dandies or rootless homeboys, they observe the unexpected in urban landscapes, notice people stunned or easy. Their weirdly astute dialogues flirt with being a novel or a play of manners. What stops them in their tracks or starts them? Why are they fascinated by what fascinates them? Their boasts, vulnerability, and modesty presume a profound and unusual friendship, itself in motion, treading on and between the lines.” —Lynne Tillman

“When Jon and Andy walk around Manhattan talking about things I feel like they are a moving page from that very fine idea in which small talk is large and nothing is more interesting or full or more entrancing than allowing the city to model for you—and walking among it too, becoming it.” —Eileen Myles

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

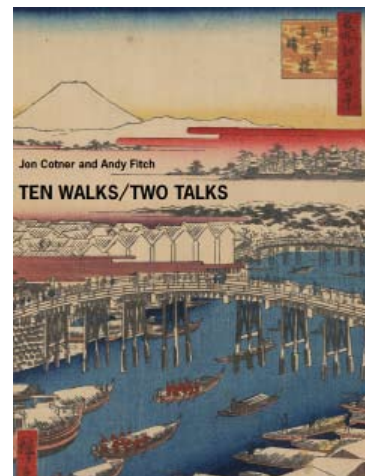
Jon Cotner and **Andy Fitch** are the authors of *Ten Walks/Two Talks* (Ugly Duckling Presse, 2010). They recently completed another collaborative manuscript called *Conversations over Stolen Food*. Cotner and Fitch have performed their dialogic improvisations across the country and internationally. Fitch’s critical study *Not Intelligent, But Smart: Rethinking Joe Brainard* is forthcoming from Dalkey Archive Press. Cotner lives in New York City. Fitch is an assistant professor in the University of Wyoming’s MFA Program.

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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UDP’s Dossier Series was founded in 2008 to publish idea-based books, pamphlets, and other objects. Dossier publications don’t share a single genre or form—long poem, lyric essay, criticism, artist book, polemical text—but rather an investigative impulse. If you would like to receive review copies of future titles in the Dossier Series, please email anna@uglyducklingpresse.org. For past and forthcoming titles, visit: www.uglyducklingpresse.org.



“Like the propositions of Brainard, Schuyler, or Wittgenstein, Andy Fitch’s declarations of ambulatory fact—of ‘mere’ observation—are barbed with genius: clever, defamiliarizing, cushioned by a hum of meditative stillness. His sweetly Oulipian sentences give back to the ordinary its modicum of glow. And when he starts talking with the profound Jon Cotner, a latter-day Plato, we remember that philosophical inquiries have every right to take root in daily curiosities and drolleries, like the ‘smell of hip-cream,’ or the metonymic relation of ‘my first oral sex experience’ to the ‘mace flavor’ of a cup of tea. Neurasthenia never had finer spokesmen.”

—Wayne Koestenbaum

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