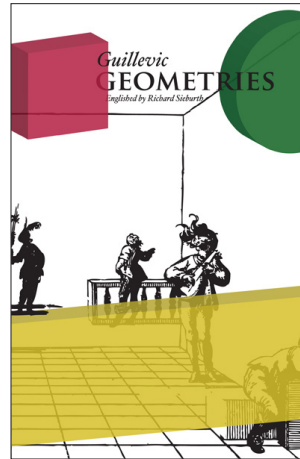


Guillevic GEOMETRIES

Englished by Richard Sieburth

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Guillevic wrote *Geometries* (*Euclidiennes* in French) in the early sixties, after his friend, the poet André Frenaud, recognizing in his poetry an inclination toward mathematics, and more specifically geometry, encouraged him to pursue this direction. Guillevic places a series of geometrical figures before our eyes, as they might appear in a schoolchild's primer, paired with poems that let us hear how these forms might speak. These talking circles, squares and angles—these articulations of space—are in turn meant to remind us of our own figures of speech. Guillevic's *Geometries* fits into the 1960s return to emblems, signs, and playful constraints both in art (Robert Indiana, Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg and even Andy Warhol) and in writing (the Noigandres poets, Oulipo, Eugen Gomringer, the Robert Creeley of *Pieces*). But at the same time, the Euclidean world of forms here explored remains as timeless as the stones of Guillevic's own Carnac.

THE AUTHOR

Born in 1907 in Carnac in Brittany, Eugene Guillevic began writing poetry as a child at school, where he encountered Jean La Fontaine's fables, learning many of them by heart. After completing his Baccalaureate in Mathematics, Guillevic went on to serve as Inspecteur d'Economie Nationale for the Ministry of France. His career, with its legal and managerial demands, had a significant and firm effect on his poetry, which moves away from the Surrealist "obsession" with the Image, and toward the clarity of the Object. Guillevic received Le Grand Prix de Poésie from the French Academy in 1976 and Le Grand Prix National de Poésie in 1984.

THE TRANSLATOR

Richard Sieburth's translations include Friedrich Holderlin's *Hymns and Fragments*, Walter Benjamin's *Moscow Diary*, Nerval's *Selected Writings*, Henri Michaux's *Emergences/Resurgences*, Michel Leiris' *Nights as Day, Days as Night*, and Gershom Sholem's poetry. His English edition of the Nerval won the 2000 PEN/Book-of-the-Month-Club Translation Prize. His translation of Maurice Scève's *Délie* was a finalist for the PEN Translation Prize and the Weidenfeld Prize. He is most recently the translator of Nerval's *The Salt Smugglers* (Archipelago Books, 2009).

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.

ABOUT THE LOST LITERATURE SERIES

The Lost Literature Series is dedicated to publishing neglected works of 20th century poetry, prose, and important & resonant works that fall outside those confines.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS TITLE OR THE LOST LITERATURE SERIES, CONTACT:
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Perpendicular

If I'm so damn upright
Why can't I get
The other one
Out of my mind?



Equilateral Triangle

I have gone too far
In my need for order.
Nothing more can happen
here.

Such delight! Who knew a poet could wrestle such sexy moves from old Euclid's boxy shapes! That a French poet did so doesn't come as much of a surprise. Guillevic being a master of small, perfectly crafted camées. Now admirably Englished by Richard Sieburth these gems have kept all their Gallic lightness and grace—that's a true achievement.

— Pierre Joris