

Bill Berkson

Invisible Oligarchs

Bill Berkson's *Invisible Oligarchs* is like a book jotted on the back of a poet's hand—a hand that picks up everything that sings to it, from gold-leaf proverb to chopstick sheath, on its quick trip through a few places in urban Russia, 2006. As a sharply observant poet and one of the most soulful art critics alive, Berkson knows how to get us behind the set, and reading this book is like taking a high dive with him into a perfectly mixed white russian.

“ A wonderful docu-mini-epic with book lists, ancestries, politics, memorabilia, correspondence, photos to boot, and most of all the kinetic minute-to-minute jottings of a restless “on” consciousness.

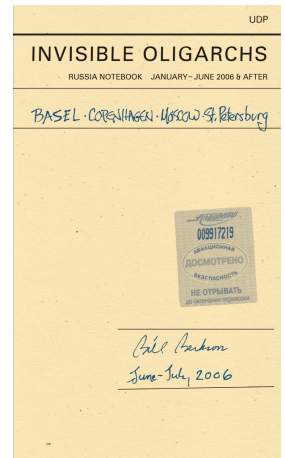
— ANNE WALDMAN

“ Bill is among the greatest soldiers poetry has produced, leaving no man or woman behind, no jewels unturned. The pull of his rhythms will haunt your mind.

— CEDAR SIGO



Bill Berkson was born in New York in 1939. He moved to Northern California in 1970 and now divides his time between San Francisco and New York. He is a poet, critic, sometime curator, and professor emeritus at the San Francisco Art Institute, where he taught art history and literature for many years. A new collection of his poems, *Expect Delays*, appeared from Coffee House Press in 2014.



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Media contact: Julien Poirier • julienpoirier@fastmail.jp

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