Jure Detela

Moss & Silver

Translated from the Slovene by Raymond Miller with Tatjana Jamnik

Jure Detela—poet, activist, and mystic—was a key figure in the vibrant avant-garde movement that defined Slovenian culture in the 1980s. The forty-four poems of Moss & Silver anticipate the radical environmentalism and animal rights activism of the 21st century while engaging in a passionate dialogue with a wide array of poets. Moss & Silver (Mah in srebro), originally published in 1983, is the first book of Jure Detela’s poems to appear in English. This bilingual edition includes an introduction by Slovenian poet and critic Iztok Osojnik and a translator’s afterword by Raymond Miller.

Cover artwork by contemporary Slovenian artist Mina Fina.

“Inside these poems, dirt is clean—insect wings—a cold and bright-lit ringing sound—animals are not afraid—abrupt eternity—live forever, Jure Detela!

— Cathy Wagner

“Jure Detela’s deeply literary poems stand on the side of life in an era of unprecedented ecological and political disasters.

— Edward Hirsch

Jure Detela was born in Ljubljana in 1951. He was an accomplished poet, critic, and art historian who stood somewhat apart from the main currents of the Slovenian avant-garde of the 1980s.

Raymond Miller has written extensively on the history of Romanticism in East Central Europe, Slavic historical linguistics, and 19th century Russian literature. Moss & Silver is his first published verse translation.