Heimrad Bäcker

Seascape

translated by Patrick Greaney

afterword by Charles Bernstein

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Heimrad Bäcker’s *Seascape* uses documentary material to recount a minor historical episode from World War II: the crew of a German submarine comes upon three men on a Norwegian lifeboat and refuses to take them on board. Bäcker’s account of Nazi inhumanity uncannily echoes *Un coup de dés*, Marcel Broodthaers’ *A Voyage on the North Sea*, and other nautical texts of the avant-garde.

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

**Heimrad Bäcker** (1925-2003) was an artist, poet, and influential editor of the Austrian avant-garde. Most of his literary works draw on the methods of concrete and visual poetry to present documentary material about the Shoah. *Seascape* was Bäcker’s first book; it was published in German in 1985, when he was 60.

**Patrick Greaney** is the author of *Untimely Beggar: Poverty and Power from Baudelaire to Benjamin*, and *In a Near Future: Quotation and History in Contemporary Literature and Art*. He is an associate professor of German and comparative literature at the University of Colorado Boulder.

**Charles Bernstein** holds the Donald T. Regan Chair in the Department of English at the University of Pennsylvania. A volume of Bernstein’s selected poetry from the past thirty years, “All the Whiskey in Heaven,” was published in 2010 by Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.