Vladimir Aristov

What We Saw from This Mountain

Edited by Julia Trubikhina-Kunina

Translated from the Russian by Julia Trubikhina-Kunina and Betsy Hulick, with contributions from Gerald Janecek, Rebekah Smith, and Matvei Yankelevich

This is the first English-language collection of poetry by contemporary Russian poet, essayist, and prose writer Vladimir Aristov, a satellite figure of the Metarealist literary movement of the 1980s–90s. Aristov’s work explores metaphor-centered narrative poetry while assimilating American Language poetry and European postmodern theory. His poetics is characterized by a philosophical thoughtfulness made more profound by his life-long work as a scientist, and by striking images that evoke the late poetry of Osip Mandelstam.

“[Aristov’s] poems create worlds that are saturated with language and sounds... they glisten in visual unreality and tactile truth.

— Stephanie Sandler

“[...] a poetic world of imaginative leaps and metamorphic flows, of limits tested and overcome.

— Michael Palmer

Vladimir Aristov (b. 1950, Moscow) is a poet and physicist. Since his first publications in the late 1980s, Aristov has authored seven books of poetry, a novel, numerous articles and essays, and a play. He is a recipient of the Alexei Kruchenykh Prize (1993) and the Andrei Bely Independent Literary Prize (2008).

Julia Trubikhina-Kunina teaches at Hunter College. She has translated Susan Howe, Anthony Hecht, and Nathaniel Tarn into Russian.