

# ***Written in the Dark: Five Poets in the Siege of Leningrad***

Gennady Gor, Dmitry Maksimov, Sergey Rudakov, Vladimir Sterligov & Pavel Zaltsman

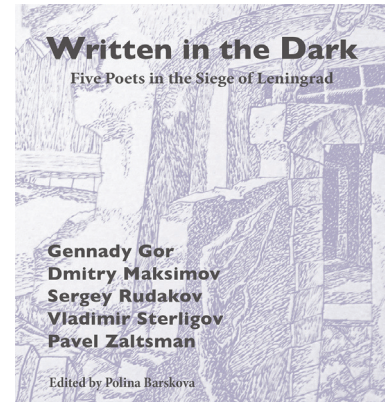
This anthology presents a group of writers and a literary phenomenon that has been unknown even to Russian readers for 70 years, obfuscated by historical amnesia. Moreover, the formal ambition and macabre avant-gardism of this uncanny body of work match its horrific content, giving birth to a “poor” language which alone could reflect the depth of suffering and psychological destruction experienced by victims of that historical disaster.

**Edited by Polina Barskova**

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In a world gone mad—the refusal of conventional sense was a conceptual necessity. *Written in the Dark* is full of wit, gallows humor, and mordant courage, with overlays of Surrealism, Futurism, Acmeism, and the absurd.

—CHARLES BERNSTEIN



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**Gennady Gor** (1907-1981), born in a tsarist prison, belonged to the avant-garde circles of Leningrad in the 1930s, but was ostracized for his “formalist” novel *The Cow*.



**Dmitry Maksimov** (1904-1987), was a renowned philologist and specialist of early twentieth-century Russian poetry.



**Sergey Rudakov** (1909-1944), was a philologist and poet and friend of Osip Mandelstam during his Voronezh exile.



**Vladimir Sterligov** (1904-1973), was an artist in the circle of Kazimir Malevich, one of the leaders of the Leningrad avant-garde.



**Pavel Zaltsman** (1912-1985), an artist, belonged to the circle of Pavel Filonov, one of the leaders of the Leningrad avant-garde.