

# Andrei Monastyrski

## *Elementary Poetry*

Translated by Brian Droitcour and Yelena Kalinsky

Preface by Boris Groys

Andrei Monastyrski has received international recognition for his work with Collective Actions, a group of artists and writers who began to organize outdoor actions on the edge of Moscow in 1976. However, Monastyrski came to art practice through poetry, experimenting with sound, form, and audience participation. *Elementary Poetry* collects Monastyrski's poems, books, and action objects from the early 1970s to the early 1980s, tracing a genealogy of the art action in poetry.

// Today Monastyrski is considered a guru of the new Russian art in Moscow. His decisive influence on its origins and development is indisputable.

— BORIS GROYS

// He erases the delineation of what is “text” and what is “poem.”

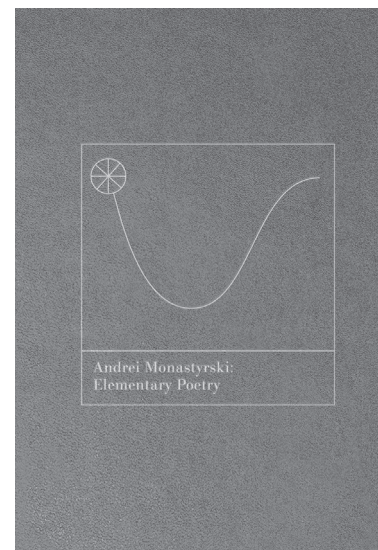
— KATHERINE BEAMAN



**Andrei Monastyrski** (b. 1949) graduated from Moscow State University with a degree in philology and worked for many years at the Literature Museum in Moscow. He was awarded the Andrei Bely Prize in literature in 2003, the Soratnik Prize in 2008, and the Innovation Prize in 2009.

**Brian Droitcour** is a writer, translator, and curator. From 2002 to 2007 he lived in Moscow, where he covered exhibitions for *The Moscow Times*.

**Yelena Kalinsky** is an art historian, archivist, and curator based in Lansing, MI. Her writing has appeared in *ARTMargins*, *Russian Literature*, *Nova Galerija Newspapers*, and elsewhere.



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