Aleksandr Skidan

Golem Soveticus: Prigov as Brecht and Warhol in One Persona

Translated by Kevin M.F. Platt

Golem Soveticus: Prigov as Brecht and Warhol in One Persona places Dmitri Alexandrovich Prigov, one of the most significant poets and artists of the late-Soviet underground, into transnational historical context. Skidan describes Prigov's "mass production" of poetry and approach to ideology critique as elements of the global transformation of art practices in the late twentieth century.

This pamphlet is part of UDP's 2020 Pamphlet Series: twenty commissioned essays on collective work, translation, performance, pedagogy, poetics, and small press publishing. Each offers a different approach to the pamphlet as a form of working in the present, an engagement at once sustained and ephemeral.

Excerpt:

Truly, only having taken account of his own "imitativeness," but also of the "imitativeness," the reproducibility of poetic subjectivity as such, transforming it into the poem's constructive principle, could Prigov step up to a completely different level, that of "Dmitry Aleksandrovich Prigov, Academician of Belyaevo."

Aleksandr Skidan (b. 1965, Leningrad) has published five poetry collections in Russian, four books of essays, and a novel. His first book in English translation, *Red Shifting*, was published in 2008 by UDP. Skidan is a member of the art and activist collective Chto Delat?, co-editor of the *New Literary Observer*, and translator of literary theory and poetry. He lives in St. Petersburg.

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