

# Åke Hodell

## *The Marathon Poet*

Translated from the Swedish by Fia Backström

Iconic poet-artist of the Swedish post-war avant-garde, Åke Hodell tells the story of his artistic journey through the absurd, satirical, tour-de-force that is *The Marathon Poet*, originally published in 1981 and now available for the first time in a facsimile-style English translation.

Hodell's book is centered around a fictional race between poets, in which our author-protagonist becomes the sole qualifier. The narrative of the race is intersected by apocryphal origin stories of Hodell's earlier works that freely blur fact and fiction through repetitive language techniques, phonetic writing, satirical humor, and a multi-vocal sound poem.

// Poets like Hodell hold the bean-counters accountable. Read this as a form of apostasy that reaffirms the soul. Read this to laugh, or cry, or both at the same time.

— GREGG BORDOWITZ

// I tried to run while reading this book. Too dangerous. I tried to read it in my sleep, but it kept me awake.

— IDA BÖRJEL

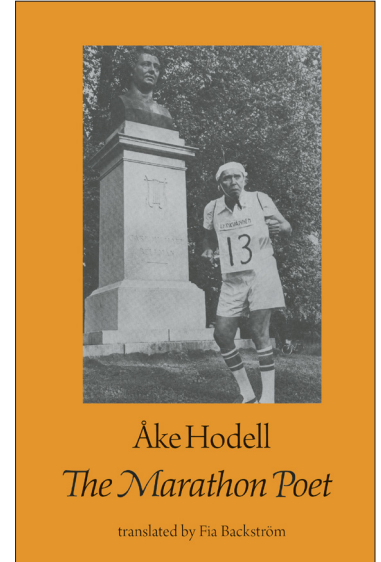
// This marathon is every bit as wild as Alice's looking-glass.

— MOLLY NESBIT



In 1941, while serving as a fighter pilot in WWII, **Åke Hodell** (1919-2000) miraculously survived a plane crash. During his convalescence, he decided to change the course of his life and became a poet and artist, influenced by socially critical art movements as well as by Fluxus.

**Fia Backström** is a Swedish artist based in New York. Her multi-disciplinary practice includes photography, performance, events, installation, display architecture, and writing.



Trade Paperback  
Poetry, Fiction | \$20  
5.25" x 8.25" | 152 pp.  
ISBN 978-1-946433-47-3  
Lost Literature #30

Distributed by:  
Small Press Distribution  
Inpress Books (UK)

**Release Date: November 1, 2020**

Media contact: Sarah Lawson • [publicity@uglyducklingpresse.org](mailto:publicity@uglyducklingpresse.org)

UGLY DUCKLING PRESSE is a nonprofit publisher of poetry, translation, performance texts, investigative forms, lost works, and books by artists. For more information, visit [uglyducklingpresse.org](http://uglyducklingpresse.org).