

Dmitri Alexandrovich Prigov

Soviet Texts

Translated by Simon Schuchat with Ainsley Morse

Soviet Texts is the first representative selected volume of Prigov's poetry and experimental prose texts to appear in English. It includes short stories about amazing heroes of the revolution and after, and poetic sequences that expose literature, history, and culture to the stark light of a post-modern Gogolian laughter, some of which became cult-classics for his generation. A selection of post-Soviet writings, concerned with human mortality and human sinfulness, is also included.



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// Prigov has finally received the recognition that he deserved as a radical reformer of Russian literature who has performed a real cultural revolution.

— MARK LIPOVETSKY

// Simon Schuchat brings to life, in English, this essential Russian artist.

— CHARLES BERNSTEIN



Dmitri Alexandrovich Prigov (1940–2007) is one of the most important figures in the literary history of the late Soviet and early post-Soviet era, and is considered one of the founders of Moscow Conceptualism. Almost until the collapse of the Soviet Union, his writing circulated solely in unofficial *samizdat* editions and overseas publications. With the onset of glasnost and perestroika, he was able to publish and show his visual art in “official” venues, and also exhibited his art outside of Russia. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, his work was acknowledged with several notable awards, including, in 2002, the Boris Pasternak prize.



Simon Schuchat is a retired American diplomat with over twenty-five years of service. He worked on U.S.–Russian affairs at the State Department in Washington, and in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. He attended the University of Chicago and published the journal *Buffalo Stamps* before moving to New York in 1975 and becoming part of the St. Mark's downtown writing scene.



Ainsley Morse has been translating 20th- and 21st-century Russian and (former-) Yugoslav literature since 2006. “Previous UDP publications include the co-translation of Vsevolod Nekrasov (with Bela Shayevich, UDP 2013) and *Kholin 66: Diaries and Poems* (also with Shayevich, 2017). She holds a PhD in Slavic literatures from Harvard University and enjoys teaching all over the Russian and Yugoslav traditions.

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