Lewis Warsh

Elixir

Animated by a poignant blend of humor, pathos, joie de vivre, and nostalgia, Elixir is an extended meditation on everyday life and the passage of time. Fragments of narrative, overheard dialogue, song lyrics, and slant memoir surface and recede throughout. Examining the inseparable entanglement of the quotidian and the profound with wit and candor, these poems are personal, direct, and elusive at the same time.

"Elixir is a multi-personae action movie, a love poem, a trip down memory lane, a Kulchur lexicon, an ode to NYC and tribute to exotic ports everywhere.

— Anne Waldman

"Poetry is nothing if not the illustration of momentous meditation, a laughing affirmation of lust, and a desire for unknowing. Lewis was cool, forever like that.

— Thurston Moore

"This is poetry that comes back to haunt you in the end.

— Ryan Eckes

"To have this book is to have a gift to dive into.

— Anselm Berrigan

Lewis Warsh (1944–2020) was a key poet of the second generation New York School and—as a teacher, poet, mentor, and publisher of Angel Hair and United Artists Books—a significant figure in New York poetry communities for over 50 years, authoring over thirty volumes of poetry, fiction, and autobiography. He was director of the MFA program in creative writing at Long Island University in Brooklyn from 2007–2013, and lived in Manhattan and Western Massachusetts.