

Mikhail Kuzmin

New Hull

Translated from the Russian by Simona Schneider

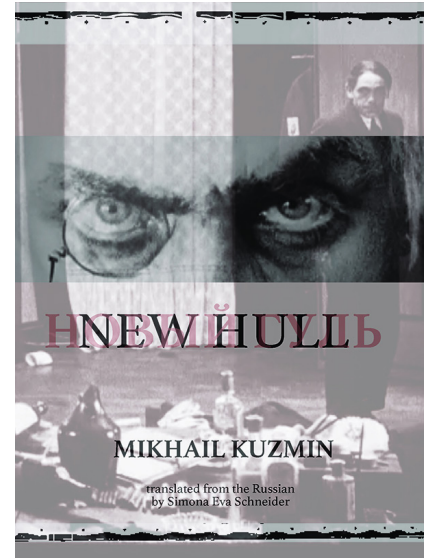
Published as a chapbook 100 years ago, *New Hull* is a cycle of love poems by Russia's first openly gay writer in response to Fritz Lang's film *Dr. Mabuse, the Gambler* (1922). The poem's Orphic verse addresses the American playboy billionaire, Edgar Hull, wrestling him back from Mabuse's oppressive gaze. Kuzmin's elegy speaks to virtual world citizens, teasing media presence beyond passive-active viewing on a sleepwalker-spectator-dictator continuum, gently steering film plot and allegory into lyric song.

// *Expressionist aesthetics, queer desire, and, above all, a love lost like sand on the wind, a transliterative shutter. Attending to spiritual tremors and eerie resonances with a finely-tuned prosodic divining rod, Simona Eva Schneider calls forth a hull/ghoul so new, you may even find yourself bound up on its atemporal prow.*

— DANNY SNELSON

// *[Mikhail Kuzmin]'s modernist emphasis on the precision and concreteness of language and image proved an important influence on his friends Anna Akhmatova and Osip Mandelstam. To the difficult task of rendering Russian classical poetry in English, Simona Schneider brings a dedication to reproducing the poet's own linguistic strategies.*

— EUGENE OSTASHEVSKY



Chapbook
Poetry, Translation | \$14
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Mikhail Kuzmin (1872–1936) was a poet most famous for writing Russia's first openly-gay novel, *Wings* (1907), and his poem cycle, *Trout Breaks the Ice* (1929). An over-looked but important figure, his work spans genre, periods, and Russia before and after the Revolution.



Simona Schneider's translations have appeared in *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, and *Literature Across Frontiers*. She was a finalist for *Three Percent's* prize for translations in Dmitry Golyenko's *As It Turned Out* (UDP). She received a PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Berkeley.