



Breathing Arizona

A Journal

Stephen Bett

Stephen Bett ~ Breathing Arizona: A Journal

In this new book of poems, his 15th, Stephen Bett writes with a striking but characteristically subtle power and beauty about the edgy romance of new beginning. The poet's absorbing interest in a "minimalist" poetics has here met up with his longstanding admiration of the open, ranging "journal" poem as practised, at times, by such figures as Robert Creeley, Philip Whalen, Robert Grenier, Paul Blackburn, and bp nichol, and more recently by Michael Rothenberg in his wonderful book on Whalen. The minimalists, chiefly, continue to inspire: Rae Armantrout, and younger, envelope pushing poets such as Nick Demske and Craig Dworkin.

You can write. And whatever shakes loose, this interlude has enabled a part of your identity to fly. This, what you are engaged in, is bigger than you. It's a leap on the path of what Jung called individuation, and it's all yours.
~ Michael Kenyon

This is authentic minimalist poetry. The words are so modestly beautiful in their arrangement upon the white page while showing an emotional intelligence within the micro-text. Poetic minimalism is notoriously difficult to master. Yet [Bett's work] manipulates the sparse format so aptly that the outcome is a poignant expression of the tensions that exist [on the page].
~ REM magazine in New Zealand

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