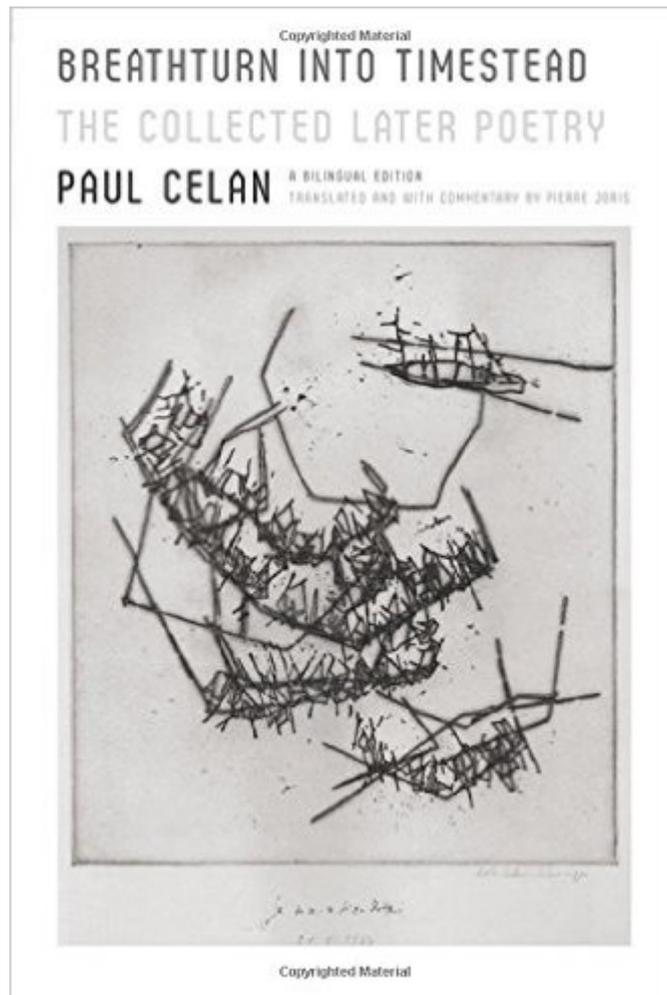


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Breathturn Into Timestead: The Collected Later Poetry: A Bilingual Edition (German Edition)



Synopsis

2015 National Translation Award Winner in Poetry Paul Celan, one of the greatest German-language poets of the twentieth century, created an oeuvre that stands as testimony to the horrors of his times and as an attempt to chart a topography for a new, uncontaminated language and world. *Breathturn into Timestead: The Collected Later Poetry* gathers the five final volumes of his life's work in a bilingual edition, translated and with commentary by the award-winning poet and translator Pierre Joris. This collection displays a mature writer at the height of his talents, following what Celan himself called the "turn" (Wende) of his work away from the lush, surreal metaphors of his earlier verse. Given "the sinister events in its memory," Celan believed that the language of poetry had to become "more sober, more factual . . . â ^grayer." Abandoning the more sumptuous music of the first books, he pared down his compositions to increase the accuracy of the language that now "does not transfigure or render â ^poetical"; it names, it posits, it tries to measure the area of the given and the possible." In his need for an inhabitable post-Holocaust world, Celan saw that "reality is not simply there; it must be searched for and won." *Breathturn into Timestead* reveals a poet undergoing a profound artistic reinvention. The work is that of a witness and a visionary.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

At this writing there are only 6 reviews of this amazing book, and 3 of them are complaints about the binding and the paper. Please donâ™t be deterred by qualms about the bookâ™s presentation and durability. Iâ™ve spent the last month immersed in these pagesâ™ book-marking, referencing, writing notes in the margins, lugging the 2.5 lb. marvel around with me, splaying it out on

occasionâ ”and it has held up just fine. While itâ™s not a deluxe edition, neither is it prohibitively expensive. The paper is of average thicknessâ ”not notably thinâ ”and was probably chosen because, at 650 pages, heavier stock would have made the volume size unwieldy. This book is extraordinaryâ ”both Celanâ™s poetry and Jorisâ™s illumination of itâ ”and to disregard that while complaining about the paper is absurd. Pierre Joris has spent the last 40 years in devoted apprenticeshipâ • to Celanâ™s work, and his lengthy introduction and 170 pages of commentary do much to open these final cryptic books to broader understanding. Many people admire Celan in theory but find his later poetry too difficultâ ”here Joris has provided great help, both on a scholarly level and with an impassioned and intuitive feeling for the work. He does a fine job of explication without dulling any of the masterful ambiguity that allows these poems to be experienced in different ways at different times. His painstaking translations honor the originals without deadening them. The poems are still âœdifficultâ • âœ “in part because they are so emotionally charged and soul-wrenchingâ ”but they donâ™t refuse a thoughtful reader. References to concrete events, people, objects, and landscapes are generally there, locked into the complex of each word-puzzle, if there is an effort to find them. Joris has provided innumerable and invaluable keys.

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