

AUDUBON TERRACE PRESS

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THE SHRINE WHOSE SHAPE I AM: THE COLLECTED POETRY OF SAMUEL MENASHE

edited by

Bhisham Bherwani and Nicholas Birns

Audubon Terrace Press is delighted to announce the publication of *The Shrine Whose Shape I Am: The Collected Poetry of Samuel Menashe*, edited by Bhisham Bherwani and Nicholas Birns, with a foreword by Stephanie Burt and an afterword by Dana Gioia. This book compiles all of Menashe's published poetry and his one short story.

Honored in 2004 with Poetry Foundation's inaugural Neglected Masters Award, Samuel Menashe (1925–2011), an American poet who received more critical attention abroad than in the US, composed and published his poetry largely unacclaimed, developing an enviable opus of deceptively short poems permeated with wisdom.

"The Menashean magic," observes Rachel Hadas, "ordains that the more closely you examine these small poems, the more you find tucked into each of them. Menashe's prevailing tone of calm, urbane alertness leaves plenty of space for puckishness and puns, elegy and war, joy and grief, and of our shared human sense, universal but hard to put into words, of navigating through the world in a body."

"Menashe's poems are distilled, scrupulous, often playful," notes Robert Morgan, "both subtle and exact, with surprising rhymes and range of reference. Some poems are minute meditations, others testimony of witness. What is most impressive is the humanity, the keen relish for words, paradox, and minutiae of life itself."

Nobel Laureate Roald Hoffmann responds to "the simple strength of poems that shake us. And we tremble. Samuel Menashe was a great poet."

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