

The Passion of Phineas Gage & Selected Poems

Jesse Glass

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Poetry. *The Passion of Phineas Gage & Selected Poems* presents the best of Glass' experimental writing in a single volume. Glass' ground-breaking work has been hailed by poets as diverse as Jerome Rothenberg, William Bronk and Jim Daniels for its insight into human nature and its exploration of forms. Glass uses the tools of post-modernism: collaging, fragmentation, and Oulipo-like processes along with a keen understanding of poetic forms and traditions that stretches back to Beowulf and beyond. Moreover, Glass finds his subject matter in larger than life figures like Phineas Gage—the man whose life was changed in an instant when an iron bar was sent rocketing through his brain in a freak accident. The product of over 30 years of engagement with the avant-garde, *The Passion of Phineas Gage & Selected Poems* is the work of a mature poet who continues to reinvent himself with every text he produces.

Praise for *The Passion of Phineas Gage & Selected Poems*

“For some years now Jesse Glass has reached us from far distances & has established himself as a poet working over a wide range of experimental forms & processes. In ‘The Passion of Phineas Gage’, Glass has outdone himself & produced a major work of documentary poetry with the variety of formats that his earlier experiments had led us to expect. It is also a work that probes deeply & unflinchingly into the fragile nature of mind & the limits & extremes to which it can be driven by external or invasive forces. In Phineas Gage’s accidental transformation, we can read our own vulnerability as temporal & soft machines.”

—Jerome Rothenberg

In a virtuoso evocation of Gage’s life from that moment onwards, Glass intersperses contemporary accounts of the accident with a series of brilliant and moving poems. In those voiced by Gage, the painstaking fumble of his thoughts, perfectly evoked by Glass’s insertion of a comma between each word, contrasts electrifyingly with his unexpectedly sublime language, which in turn contrasts with the far more constrained voices of the other speakers The selected poems provide further evidence of Glass’s ability, but it is the remarkable opening sequence that stays in the mind.

—Sarah Crown, *The Guardian*



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“You are having such wonderful enjoyment in music and in the intricate structures of the natural world that the enjoyment spills over to me as a reader. I love your poems, their music, their watchful discoveries.”

—William Bronk

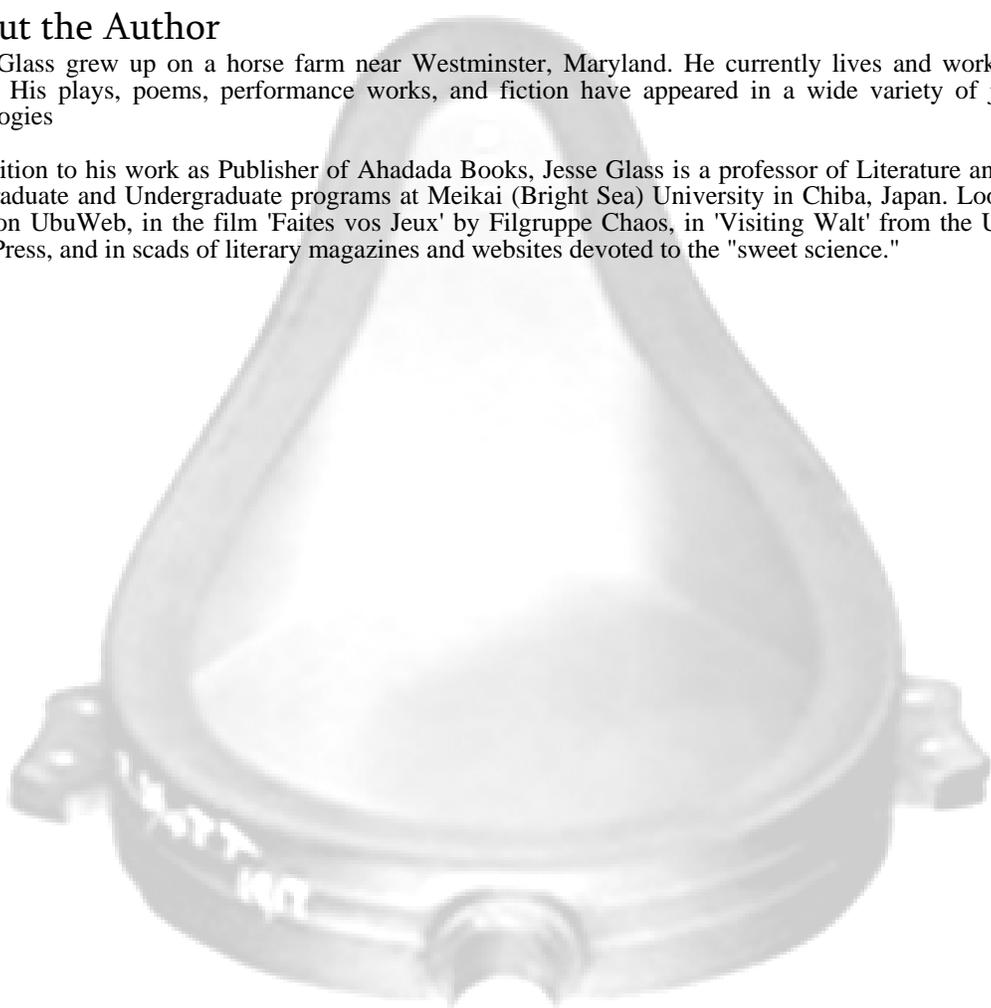
“His rhythms are vigorous, his imagery is strong and inventive; and his language has, in places, a burly force that reminds me of Geoffrey Hill.”

—Jane Sommerville, *The American Book Review*

About the Author

Jesse Glass grew up on a horse farm near Westminster, Maryland. He currently lives and works in Tokyo, Japan. His plays, poems, performance works, and fiction have appeared in a wide variety of journals and anthologies

In addition to his work as Publisher of Ahadada Books, Jesse Glass is a professor of Literature and History in the Graduate and Undergraduate programs at Meikai (Bright Sea) University in Chiba, Japan. Look for Glass' work on UbuWeb, in the film 'Faites vos Jeux' by Filgruppe Chaos, in 'Visiting Walt' from the University of Iowa Press, and in scads of literary magazines and websites devoted to the "sweet science."



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