

Guillevic. *Summoned: Poems 1977-1982*

Translated by Monique Chefdor and Stella Harvey. Introduction by Stella Harvey and Monique Chefdor. Afterword by Lucie Albertini Guillevic. Anderson, SC: Parlor Press, 2016. 386 pages. ISBN 978-1-60235-524-8

Requis (*Summoned*) features a distinctive poetics which is typical of Guillevic's later work. Like *Du Domaine* (1977), *Requis* unfolds in very brief, haiku-like groupings of three or four short lines. With these brief groupings of enigmatic and memorable images, Guillevic crafts an effective poetics using minimalist means. He often foregrounds nouns and infinitives in these poems, creating an impersonal atmosphere. The recurring presence of questions is also a characteristic device of his later poetics, suggesting a stance of interrogating the world and patiently waiting for an answer. This new translation of *Requis* by Monique Chefdor and Stella Harvey will be appreciated both by readers who know Guillevic's work well and by those discovering it for the first time. Their translations are thoughtful, accurate and generally pleasing. Their word choices reflect a deep awareness of Guillevic's world, making the translated lines in English feel close to the original lines in French.

In her introduction to the volume, Stella Harvey argues that "*Requis* represents a critical moment" within Guillevic's oeuvre: "It is at once tantalizing and proliferating, arbored and rhizomatic in its structure, expansive and condensed. It looks backward and forward, inward and outward, embraces the commonplace and the recondite, the primordial and the ultra-modern, its predominantly somber tone interspersed with moments of light humor. The overall effect is kaleidoscopic, so that each rereading of the poem brings new perspectives" (xiii). Adopting a different angle, Monique Chefdor's introduction explores the links

between Guillevic's poetics and quantum theory. Guillevic himself referred to the pairs of short lines set against the blank page in his later poetry as "quanta." Cheddor quotes his statement: "Is not a poem a form of energy? Energy destined to reach the reader" (xxx). She detects echoes of the poet's fascination with quantum physics in "the recurrent references in *Requis* to dark matter, mass, web, spin, interstellar space, void" (xxx). Cheddor concludes her introduction by observing that "Guillevic confronts his reader with the shock of recognition of the mystery lurking at the heart of the seemingly obvious" (xxxiii). This book also includes an afterword by Guillevic's widow, Lucie Albertini, providing interesting background information on the genesis of *Requis*.

Thus, *Summoned* constitutes an important addition to the ongoing critical assessment of Guillevic's poetry as well as making a key collection of his poems accessible to an English-speaking audience.

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