



Poems Retrieved

Frank O'Hara

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Originally published under Donald Allen's classic Grey Fox Press imprint, Poems Retrieved is a substantial part of Frank O'Hara's oeuvre, containing over 200 pages of previously unpublished poetry discovered after the publication of his posthumous Collected Poems in 1971. Featuring a new introduction by O'Hara expert and friend, poet and art critic Bill Berkson, Retrieved has been completely reformatted and is essential for any reader of twentieth century poetry. As Berkson writes, "The breadth of what Frank O'Hara took to be poetry is reflected in the many kinds of poems he wrote. . . . Turning the pages of any of his collections, you wonder what he didn't turn his hand to, what variety of poem he left untried or didn't, in some cases, as if in passing, anticipate."

Poems Retrieved Details

Date : Published May 1st 2013 by City Lights Publishers (first published 1977)

ISBN : 9780872865976

Author : Frank O'Hara

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Tosh says

Gray Fox Press is one of my favorite small presses, and sometime in the 70's or was it even in the 80's they put out this great collection of O'Hara's poetry. How great is this guys' work? Super great. He's almost a super duper social historian on top of his great writing. To be in NYC at that time.... wow.

David says

Very exciting that Donald Allen found over 200 pages of previously unpublished poetry by the late, great Frank O'Hara to publish in this book. Since O'Hara is my favorite poet (most of the time, anyway), it is no surprise that I enjoyed this book. Some of the poems are wonderful, and some perhaps not his best work, but enough of the former to make the book a pleasure for his fans. Not sure about the rest of you, but then again, why aren't you an O'Hara fan, if you are not? You are missing out, in my humble opinion.

Edward Rathke says

There's a lot to love in here and then some more that's just okay. It's very playful poetry that is occasionally intensely beautiful.

This mad had a heart big as an ocean and made for dancing.

Grant says

too disjointed, lacking unity, many poems utterly incomprehensible, clearly written hastily and without much thought on the back of dime-store napkins.

Kit says

Poems that Frank O'Hara did not elect to publish... he was mostly right about that.

City Lights Booksellers & Publishers says

"While the reputation of many mid-twentieth century poets has declined, Frank O'Hara's keeps rising and rising: today's readers cannot get enough of his brave, jaunty, self-lacerating, funny, poignant, mysterious, and always surprising lyric. Poems Retrieved, originally published in 1977 by the late Don Allen's Grey Fox Press and long out of print, contains more than 200 pages of poems that Allen found after he had assembled

the monumental Collected Poems for Alfred A. Knopf in 1971. As Allen noted in his Preface, and as Bill Berkson shows us in his excellent new introduction, these 'poems retrieved,' ranging as they do over O'Hara's entire career, are a necessary complement to the Collected, an integral component of the poet's oeuvre. No one interested in O'Hara's poetry—indeed, no one interested in the poetic ethos of the American 1950s and '60s—can afford to be without this volume."—Marjorie Perloff, Professor Emerita of English at Stanford University, and author of *Frank O'Hara: Poet Among Painters*

"The gentle intelligence and hip urbanity that Frank O'Hara expressed in his writing, indeed as a person, has nearly vanished, as much as the city that inspired him. His love for the wild vision, in all its artful abstraction, and his erudite passion for the common muse, has proven to be the true resonant poetry of our anxious human condition. We need him."—Thurston Moore, musician

Meg says

good left-overs (not finished)

Brandon says

Just about the only thing better than reading 400-something pages of Frank poems is finding out right after you finish it that there's a whole other book with 200-something more pages of Frank poems and then reading that.

Steven Pattison says

I've read a few books from O'Hara and I'm trying to read more poetry but I've enjoyed each one so far - his poems have light tone with a sense of humor and a bit offbeat which add some character to a literary genre that I would otherwise be uninterested in reading

Jonathan Holleb says

An essential poetry book for anyone who loves a lot of the beats or New York School poets...as well as anyone who loves 50s/60s poetry...A wide range of subjects & styles...This book has made me a big Frank O'Hara fan...I never knew that he wrote so many excellent poems in so many styles...

Khashayar Mohammadi says

Quite inspiring. While a select few poems left me breathless, As a Non-American, his poetry is too New-York for me (If that makes any sense)

I have read way too many poems about a gay New York poet writing half-french poems, Aggressively namedropping. Namedropping seems to be the cornerstone of New York Poetry; From WCW, to Ginsberg, to O'Hara. Vicious namedrops of various kinds; from Names of New York streets and neighbourhoods all the way up to full names of personal friends/acquaintances of the poets.

All that set aside, O'Hara's poetry is groundbreaking. His style, his substance, his spatial management, he is one of the most influential poets of the last century and this book is a great introduction to his imaginative world.

Stephanie says

Someone had compared a poem I wrote to Frank O'Hara's work, and having never read anything of his, I thought I'd investigate. I think he wrote some excellent poems, but there were a lot of mediocre ones too. At times the syntactic experimentation felt like too much; I can only take so many garden-path sentences/fragments before I start to want to enjoy language again. So in the end, I'm not sure what to make of the comparison.
