

The Passion of Phineas Gage & Selected Poems presents the best of Glass' experimental writing in a single volume. Glass' groundbreaking 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—as well as in ants processing up a wall in time to harpsichord music in order to steal salt crystals from the inner lip of a cowrie shell. The range and ambition of his work sets it apart. 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.

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JESSE GLASS

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 & unfalteringly 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

“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 Somerville