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Four Poems by Utz Rachowski

Utz Rachowski

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Rachowski, Utz. "Philadelphia – la Gorée/Philadelphia – Île de Gorée." Trans. Michael Ritterson. Reunion: The Dallas Review 2 (2012): 110-111.

Rachowski, Utz. "selbstverständlich Senghor/ but of course Senghor." Trans. Michael Ritterson. Reunion: The Dallas Review 2 (2012): 112-115.

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Rachowski, Utz. "Philadelphia pH-Wert/ Philadelphia pH Value." Trans. Michael Ritterson. Reunion: The Dallas Review 2 (2012): 106-107.

Four Poems by Utz Rachowski

Abstract

These four of Rachowski's poems were written at the conclusion of a visit to the US in 2008 and reflect his observations on poverty, freedom, slavery, and conflict in the US and West Africa.

Keywords

Rachowski, poetry, German

Disciplines

German Language and Literature | Poetry

Utz Rachowski Philadelphia pH-Wert

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Wie ein Fernsehbild unbegreiflich im Fenster

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Türme bunten Lichts deines restrooms Handtuchberge

Häuserhaufen Spitzen rot und blau ärmlich irrt der arme Mond

das 11. Stockwerk im zu teuren Haus irgendwo mußte

die Freiheit verankert sein bevor die Glocke sprang

das Unbegreifliche nie begriffen zum Greifen nah

Translated by Michael Ritterson Philadelphia pH value

Utz Rachowski

Like a TV image out of reach there , in the window

towers of bright lights your bathroom's mountain of hand towels

high-rise hodgepodge speartips red and blue looking lost the pallid moon

the 11th floor in an overpriced hotel somewhere liberty

had to be anchored before the bell was cracked

the incomprehensible never grasped just within reach

Utz Rachowski Philadelphia pH-Wert (2)

Das Rot und das Blau der Lackmus-Test im Hotelfenster: wieviel Base Freiheit wieviel Säure der Armut

der schwarze Hüne am Morgen auf dem Weg zur Liberty-Hall lag regungslos hingestreckt über dem Heizungsschacht

und schlief nicht

Translated by Michael Ritterson Philadelphia pH value (2)

Utz Rachowski

The red and the blue the litmus test in hotel window: how much basic freedom how much of poverty's acid

the black-skinned giant at morning on my way to Liberty Hall lay motionless stretched full-length over the heating shaft

not sleeping

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Utz Rachowski Philadelphia – la Gorée

"Der letzte Blick" heißt auf Französisch auf der Sklaveninsel LA GORÉE der leicht abfallende Gang im Haus hin zur Tür dahinter nur noch Meer und Amerika

30 Minuten Seeweg vor Dakar im Senegal

hinter der Tür wartet das Schiff

Translated by Michael Ritterson Philadelphia – Île de Gorée

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Utz Rachowski

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"La dernière vue" is the name in French on the slavers' island of GORÉE for that gently sloping passage to a doorway outside it only the sea and America

30 minutes by ferry from Dakar in Senegal

outside the door the waiting ship

Utz Rachowski selbstverständlich Senghor

Dakar mit dem schwarzen Fahrer Monsieur Tiata aujourd'hui non travail! also vom richtigen Stamm der Diola damit man mir nicht die Ohren abschnitt im Süden in der Casamance und der Gewissheit im Januar sterben zu müssen Freunde zahlreich und das Bier hieß "La Gazelle" belgisch und mit deinen Beinen gerührt später am Pool Palmen vom kleinen Neger der die Auflagen brachte für die Sonnenliegen das Chaos schneidende Grenze vorm Hotel drei Millionen Menschen strömten am Morgen in die Stadt drei Millionen wieder hinaus für mich sahen alle gleich aus juste pour le plaisir des yeux die Wirklichkeit meines Herzens völlig ohne Bedeutung sterben zu müssen hier

war ich gewiß zu leben denn selbstverständlich ist alle Poesie Musik Gesang Tanz sagt Léopold Sédar Senghor.

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Translated by Michael Ritterson **but of course Senghor**

Utz Rachowski

Dakar with my own black driver Monsieur Tiata aujourd'hui non travaill one from the right tribe that is a Jola so that no one would cut my ears off in the south in Casamance and in the certainty of having to die in January friends in good number and the beer was called "La Gazelle" Belgian with a finishing kick like yours it was touching later at poolside palm trees the small black man bringing out the cushions for the deck chairs walled demarcation shut out chaos before the hotel three million people streamed into town in the morning and three million flowed back out to me they all looked alike juste pour le plaisir des yeux the reality in my heart utterly without meaning

Reunion | 114

of having to die here I was certain to live because of course all poetry is music song dance says Léopold Sédar Senghor.

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