

AN UNCHANGING BLUE: SELECTED POEMS 1962-1975

ROLF DIETER BRINKMANN

TRANSLATED BY MARK TERRILL

Free Verse Editions

Series Editor, Jon Thompson

Information and Pricing

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Rolf Dieter Brinkmann's radical poetics was unique in postwar German literature. His primary influences were Gottfried Benn, European modernism and the French nouveau roman. In the 1960s these influences were merged with William Carlos Williams, Frank O'Hara and Ted Berrigan (the latter two of which Brinkmann translated into German). Brinkmann's strong affiliation with the New American Poetry provided a reverse-angle, cross-cultural perspective on one of the liveliest epochs in American letters, with a decisively German slant. His permanent confrontation with the postwar German literary establishment (reminding one at times of Jack Spicer and his place in American poetry), and his envelope-pushing experiments with language, syntax and semantics (taken to the extreme in *Westwärts 1 & 2*), led him further and further away from the literary scene. His confrontational nature and volatile personality were feared at readings, and together with his huge creative output and his early death, earned him a reputation as the "James Dean of poetry," a true *enfant terrible* of contemporary letters. *AN UNCHANGING BLUE* spans the poetic career of the poet described by Heiner Müller as "Maybe the only genius in the postwar literature of West Germany."

AN UNCHANGING BLUE provides a generous sampling of translations (with German originals) taken from ten collections of Rolf Dieter Brinkmann's poetry published between 1962 and 1975. An extensive introduction by Mark Terrill contextualizes Brinkmann's place in postwar German literature.



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