

**Kacper Bartczak**

## **"The Poetics of Plenitude and Self-Creation in the Poem"**

### **ABSTRACT**

The "poetics of plenitude" is a poetic formula, derived from a larger group of notions related to pragmatist aesthetics, in which the poem arrives at, notes, registers or signals, in any given way, the awareness of its own participation in the meaning making processes. The poem is treated as an aesthetic inquiry in which the inquirer's subjectivity evolves toward various shapes as it confronts various types of externality – linguistic, textual, material, cognitive. What gets "selfcreated" in such poetics is an artificial subjectivity, co-extensive with the poem as a formal environment designed in order to filter the plethora of external stimuli. Although such artificial selves emerge within the poem, in series of interpretive responses the poem takes toward its environment, they are not wholly "textual" – the pragmatist poetics of plenitude shows how such "selves" breach the life/text divide. They do so by remaining in various kinds of vital relations to the life of the empirical poet. I am going to examine three types of such relations as found in the life-text constellations offered by three American poets: Wallace Stevens, John Ashbery and Frank O'Hara.

### **BIO**

Kacper Bartczak is a Polish poet, translator, writer and critic. He gives lectures on American literature at the University of Lodz. He translated the work of poets such as Rae Armantrout, John Ashbery and Peter Gizzi. Kacper Bartczak took part in the Fulbright Scholar Program and was granted the scholarship of the Tadeusz Kościuszko Foundation. He is a 2009 winner of the "Literatura na Świecie" Award for his volume of critical essays *Świat nie scalony*. He was also nominated for the Wrocław Poetry Award "Silesius" and for the Gdynia Literary Award in 2016, both in the poetry category.

