

Contents

Acknowledgements	vii
Abbreviations	ix
CHAPTER 1	
‘A fair shake or a chocolate shake’: The Difficulty of Reading James Tate	1
CHAPTER 2	
‘Fragments of novelties’: Poetry about Poetry	41
CHAPTER 3	
‘Out of his little civilized element’: Surrealizing America	95
CHAPTER 4	
‘I sent my love to the showers’: Love and Familial Dysfunction	133
CHAPTER 5	
‘A stab at conversation’: Communication Breakdown	171
CHAPTER 6	
‘Change is good’: Optimism and Prose Poetry in Recent Work	205
Appendix: The Creative Process	227
Bibliography	243
Index	253