

Contents

Preface ix

Acknowledgments xiii

Introduction: The Prose Poem and the Ideology of Genre 1

Prologue: Epiphanies and Prose Lyrics: James Joyce and the Novelistic
Fragment 19

Part I. The Birth of the Modern Prose Poem

1. Gertrude Stein and the Expatriate Avant-Garde: The Prose Poem
in Transition 41

2. Popular Modernism and the American Prose Poem: From Sherwood
Anderson to Kenneth Patchen 78

Part II. Contemporary Trajectories

3. The Prose Poem and the (Short) Short Story: Russell Edson and
the Fabulist School 97

4. Deep Images and Things: The Prose Poems of Robert Bly 150

5. Unreal Miniatures: The Art of Charles Simic 169

Part III. The Prose Poem and the New Avant-Garde

6. Rewriting the Sentence: Language Poetry and the New Prose
Poem 185

Epilogue: The Prose Poem Now 243

Notes 251

Works Cited 269

Index 283