

## Contents

THE INVENTION OF SOLITUDE 1

HAND TO MOUTH 151

TRUE STORIES

The Red Notebook 243

Why Write? 265

Accident Report 273

It Don't Mean a Thing 278

GOTHAM HANDBOOK 283

THE STORY OF MY TYPEWRITER 289

NORTHERN LIGHTS

Pages for Kafka 303

The Death of Sir Walter Raleigh 305

Northern Lights 310

CRITICAL ESSAYS

The Art of Hunger 317

New York Babel 325

Dada Bones 331

Truth, Beauty, Silence 337

From Cakes to Stones 346

The Poetry of Exile 351

Innocence and Memory 360

Book of the Dead 367

Reznikoff × 2 373

The Bartlebooth Follies 389

## CONTENTS

### PREFACES

- Jacques Dupin 395  
André du Bouchet 398  
Black on White 400  
Twentieth-Century French Poetry 403  
Mallarme's Son 429  
On the High Wire 436  
Translator's Note 444  
An Evening at Shea 450  
The National Story Project 452  
A Little Anthology of Surrealist Poems 459  
The Art of Worry 460  
Invisible Joubert 466  
Running Through Fire 472  
Hawthorne at Home 475  
Night on Earth: New York 495  
Joe Brainard 500

### OCCASIONS

- A Prayer for Salman Rushdie 513  
Appeal to the Governor of Pennsylvania 515  
The Best Substitute for War 517  
Reflections on a Cardboard Box 521  
Postcards for Georges Perec 525  
Random Notes—September 11, 2001—4:00 PM 527  
Underground 529  
NYC = USA 530  
Remembering Beckett 533  
The History of a Friendship 535  
Talking to Strangers 540  
Columbia: 1968 543

### REFERENCES 547