KEITH JONES

Fugue Meadow

PRAISE:

“In Fugue Meadow, a needle drops in grooves of a legendary record. Keith Jones both keeps time and eludes it in his own act of epic listening. As we listen to his listening, he takes us “inside the inside” where his own, poetic music, alert, percussive, and tender, mingles birth, jazz, metaphysics, and intermittent accents of death. The meadow we are permitted to enter, here, is both form and mood. And, as the poet almost but not quite says, infinitely incarnational.”

— Joseph Donahue

ABOUT THE CHAPBOOK:

Fugue Meadow listens to, thinks alongside, dwells within Don Cherry and Ed Blackwell’s legendary Mu sessions, one of twentieth-century music’s unclassifiable masterpieces. Recorded in Paris in 1969, Cherry and Blackwell accumulate vast silences, harmonies and disharmonies, vast plural and interlaced musics to think and counter, to protest, to heal the violations of what the Vietnamese called “The American War,” Richard Nixon’s Law and Order racist police state, and something of the general world situation through a studied and richly complex “world” music. The poems of Fugue Meadow are a patient response to this recording session’s embedded colonial and post-colonial histories. As their poems unfold, or enfold, Fugue Meadow seeks to understand, and conjure the other kinds of thought and history that open up and are made possible by Cherry and Blackwell’s singularly aesthetic and conceptual flight, their exile to the Old World, their burrowing out of and into old and new ways of thinking and feeling and being. Through their tracings and erasures, and in their music, these poems hope to awaken, to voice, to re-score, to re-learn, to say again, and to widen the mythic’s ensembles.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Keith Jones is the author of Surface to Air; Residuals of Basquiat (Pressed Wafer, 2012). His poems have appeared or are forthcoming in Denver Quarterly, Flag + Void, Let The Bucket Down, No Infinite, Sundial, Verse, and The Winter Anthology. His chapbook manuscript, The Lucid Upward Ladder, was named a finalist for Verse Magazine’s 2015 Tomaž Salamun Prize. He lives in Boston, Massachusetts.

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