

**ABOUT SOME VALUES OF LANDSCAPE AND WEATHER (2003):**

This is a breakthrough book in every way—for reader, for writer, and for the art.

—Robert Creeley, THE PHILLY SOUND

Gizzi's gift for shorthand sublimity could defib Rilke. His third book tends in an altogether original direction . . . toward a public and personal statement that you don't just overhear, you drop what you're doing to listen.

—Jordan Davis, THE VILLAGE VOICE

Gizzi's poetry bespeaks a long encounter with other poems, but they are fresh and urgent—socially alert and linguistically, rhythmically alive. Deeply observant and capable of sustained questioning, they deserve a broader readership.

—Maureen McLane, BOSTON GLOBE

In a time when our various values are being debated, reinvented, upheld, fought for, and/or totally misunderstood, *Some Values of Landscape and Weather* breathes the rather old craft of poetry into our new formations of life with uncanny candor and skill. Despite—or perhaps because of—his status as one of the most prominent “indie” poets of the last decade, Peter Gizzi is an entirely “major” figure.

—Graham Foust, VERSE

Peter Gizzi writes challenging poems with substantial intellectual and emotional rewards.... Gizzi practices a poetics of saturation, in which objects, images, colors, sounds and even smells combine to occupy and embody as much of the physical world as possible. But he also delves into the psyche, extracting precise emotional and intellectual truths that resonate beyond the individual.

—Brian Henry, THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT [U.K.]

Peter Gizzi has reestablished himself as one of the most exciting poets writing today. He has done this by skillfully combining the lyrical impulse of the narrative moment with a highly truncated style that magnetizes perception, tone, and syntax. The result is a marvelous ride through unpredictable verses that recall Frank O'Hara and Wallace Stevens.

—Ray Gonzalez, THE BLOOMSBURY REVIEW

Gizzi's at his best with these brilliant, provocative meditations. It's the quality of attention and his affections for things in the world that gives pause over his lines. Reflective, active, the work is the result of careful readings of the world.

—Dale Smith, POSSUM POUCH

Peter Gizzi has reinvented the lyric. He has tested its flexibility, and found it as durable as ever. Innovative lyric poets have largely hidden behind irony. Gizzi can be ironic and street-smart, but he's also sincere.... The lyric is alive and well and kicking.

—John Kinsella, SYDNEY MORNING HERALD [Australia]

In his new and engaging volume of poems, *Some Values of Landscape and Weather*, Gizzi avoids the trap of mannerism by writing in a more delicate and plangent way. He works in a language that, for all its affectionate nods at other poets, is entirely his own. One strength of his idiom is its equipoise.... Gizzi's is an art of reverberation and conjunction. His poems, in other words, insist as much on the vividness of their life as poems as on the vividness of their images of life.... In *Some Values of Landscape and Weather*, Gizzi imagines that space and convinces one of its value too, by allowing his words to be free and more than free: elate and intent, ordinary and rare each time.

—John Palattella, THE L.A. TIMES SUNDAY BOOK REVIEW

Peter Gizzi's exciting new collection of poems, *Some Values of Landscape and Weather*, finds this accomplished poet engaged in nothing less than a reinvention of the lyric, attempting an updated version that combines depth and urgency with the jaggedness of our contemporary experience.... this is indeed the beginning of a new, and often beautiful, lyric mode.

—Tim Peterson, HARVARD REVIEW

This book contains at least a dozen poems of outstanding achievement, in some of which the poet seems to depart from the kind of poetry he nurtures in the greater part of his work. They seem to represent a bursting out, possibly in impatience, from both the complexity and the constrictions of the current American poetical idiolect. They are simpler, clearer, and of larger breath. This shift is all the more interesting since Peter Gizzi has achieved so much without it, and has already established a territory of his own which quite transcends the university-ridden expectations of the American scene.... You do not achieve this kind of textuality by holding back from extremes; you achieve it by going hell-for-leather for what you believe in, which is, in fact, poetry itself and its fidelity to the real.

—Peter Riley, THE PN REVIEW [U.K.]

Gizzi's tactile, forensic rhetoric returns language to its material state, simultaneously verging on erratic melody.... Though much of Gizzi's poetry worries that our lives have fissured internally while likewise separating from exterior wholes, he also wonders whether "music were a condition / of all our endeavor here." Song—a word that appears frequently and unabashedly in this volume—is held out and held up as a possible, upright mode of coherence.... He sees existence as going on your "nerve," as Frank O'Hara put it, while being prepared, in Emily Dickinson's rubric of contingency, to go above the nerve.

—Andrew Zawacki, BOSTON REVIEW

The poetry of Peter Gizzi is paradoxical as a bebop serenade.... Less like Pollock and more like de Kooning, image accumulates.... You'd kill for a palette like his.

—Bronwyn Mills, TALISMAN

Gizzi's language is at times beautiful and at other times elusive and troubling. From rare psychological insight to "dotted archipelagoes" of language to troubling metaphysical mediations, *Some Values* offers the reader a wonderfully unpredictable landscape. This collection serves well to demonstrate Gizzi's assertion that everything *is* poetry. But, he also demonstrates—through a myriad of forms and types—that poetry seems to be *in* everything. This means that the dazzling and luminous, as well as the unsettling and tragic are the registers of human experience. Gizzi breathes new life into a seemingly archaic notion that the poem is somehow eternal—even if indeterminate.... He writes "that poetry can catch you in the headlights / and it's years refocusing the afterimage, / the depth and passion of its earnest glance." This book will catch you in the headlights, and the earnest glance, as a result, will stay with you forever.

—Mark Tursi, ENGLISH STUDIES FORUM

In *Some Values of Landscape and Weather*, Peter Gizzi achieves the contemporary dream: he balances accident and precision, shaping trajectories throughout his poems, allowing the vectors and volleys of language to shape *him*. It is a book of obstinate lyricism, that accounts for the world as it actually is but still insists on finding a type of beauty, even if it's unfamiliar.... It's an incredible place to be.

—Tony Tost, OCTOPUS MAGAZINE

Gizzi claims for contemporary experimental writing the ability to keep emotion at the forefront. Even in many of his more occluded pieces, what is at stake, at least emotionally, is clear when the subject matter is less so. *Some Values of Landscape and Weather* is as strong and moving a book of new poetry as I have read.... Gizzi combines imaginative bravado with a pan across both cultural and world history and daily life to form a sad but resolute swan song for a troubled century.

—Craig Morgan Teicher, PLEIADES

Without denying or attempting to evade the complexities of the modern position, [*Some Values of Landscape and Weather*] longs for a lyric simplicity, for a lapsed idea of an art that, as Gizzi writes, "can say how I am feeling." ...If Gizzi's sifting through the lyric tradition can sometimes sound nostalgic, it is kept from sentimentality by a critical intellect which is not content to listen to the book's vulnerable core.... The seriousness of Gizzi's enterprise, his willingness to ask stricken questions of a stricken poetry, and his moments of unnerving beauty achieve something remarkable for this strange and difficult book, in which "Paradox asks so much from us / we often experience it as grace."

—Brian Phillips, POETRY

[Peter Gizzi] displays a deft stylistic control: a cool and detached postmodern aesthetic walks hand in hand with an impassioned aesthetic of the ecstatic. ...The poet's thinking is supple; in abjuring easy solutions he bends to meet the actual world. The title poem has the ambition and verbal *jouissance* of the best poems of Hart Crane.... This is stunningly beautiful work from a poet who is beginning to stand out from his generation. If Peter Gizzi is not yet on your radar—turn it on. *Some Values of Landscape and Weather* is a must read.

—John Isles, XANTIPPE