

thom gunn on the move

Thom Gunn on the Move: Exploring the Poetic Journey of a Modern Voice

thom gunn on the move captures not only the dynamic essence of the poet's life but also reflects the vibrant energy found within his poetry. Thom Gunn, a British-American poet renowned for his sharp intellect and innovative form, often explores themes of change, movement, and transformation. His work invites readers to contemplate the fluidity of identity and the ever-shifting landscapes of human experience. In this article, we delve into what “on the move” signifies in the context of Gunn’s life and poetry, exploring his unique voice, his thematic preoccupations, and the enduring relevance of his work.

The Life and Times of Thom Gunn: A Poet on the Move

Thom Gunn’s biography is as much a journey as the thematic currents that flow through his poetry. Born in England in 1929, Gunn later moved to the United States, where he embraced new cultural and artistic influences. This physical relocation was more than a simple change of address; it marked a profound shift in his poetic style and subject matter. The idea of being “on the move” resonates deeply with his personal narrative—crossing borders, adapting to new environments, and continuously evolving as a poet.

His early work was heavily influenced by British literary traditions, particularly the formal precision of poets like W. H. Auden. However, after relocating to San Francisco in the 1950s, Gunn became associated with the San Francisco Renaissance, a movement known for its experimental and free-form approach. This period of his life was marked by creative restlessness and exploration, embodying the very concept of being “on the move” both geographically and artistically.

The Influence of Place on Gunn’s Poetry

One cannot discuss Thom Gunn on the move without acknowledging how place shaped his poetic voice. England’s structured and often reserved atmosphere contrasts with the vibrant, sometimes chaotic energy of mid-20th century America. This contrast provided Gunn with a rich terrain for poetic exploration. His poems often reflect an awareness of place—whether it’s the foggy streets of London or the bustling urban landscapes of San Francisco.

This sense of movement through different cultural and physical spaces enabled Gunn to blend formal rigor with modern themes, creating poetry that is both accessible and deeply intellectual. His work often grapples with the tension between tradition and innovation, stability and flux, mirroring his own experience of cultural transition.

Key Themes in Thom Gunn's Work: Movement, Identity, and Transformation

A defining characteristic of Thom Gunn on the move is his exploration of identity in flux. Gunn's poetry frequently examines how external changes impact the internal self, portraying movement not just as physical relocation but as psychological and emotional transformation.

Movement as Metaphor

In many of Gunn's poems, movement symbolizes more than just travel; it becomes a metaphor for change, growth, and the passage of time. Whether he's writing about the AIDS crisis, personal loss, or the search for meaning, movement underscores the impermanence and unpredictability of life. This metaphorical use of motion invites readers to reflect on their own journeys and transformations.

Exploring Sexual Identity and Freedom

As an openly gay poet at a time when homosexuality was stigmatized, Gunn's work often touches on themes of sexual identity and liberation. His poetry candidly explores the challenges and joys of living authentically, making his voice a vital part of LGBTQ literary history. The "move" in his writing can also be seen as a move toward self-acceptance and social progress.

The Intersection of Tradition and Innovation

Thom Gunn was known for his mastery of traditional poetic forms, such as the sonnet, while simultaneously pushing boundaries through content and style. This blend of old and new reflects a dynamic tension inherent in being "on the move" — holding onto the past while embracing the future. His work serves as a bridge between classical poetry and contemporary themes, demonstrating how movement through time influences artistic expression.

Why Thom Gunn on the Move Still Matters Today

In today's fast-paced, ever-changing world, Thom Gunn's poetry remains remarkably relevant. His insights into transformation, identity, and the passage of time resonate with readers navigating their own journeys of change. Understanding Gunn on the move offers valuable perspectives on resilience, adaptability, and the human capacity for reinvention.

Lessons from Gunn's Poetic Journey

One of the most powerful takeaways from Thom Gunn on the move is the importance of embracing change as a fundamental aspect of life. His poetry encourages openness to new experiences and challenges, highlighting the creative possibilities that arise when we step outside our comfort zones.

Inspiration for Contemporary Poets and Readers

Gunn's ability to merge formal structure with contemporary issues provides a blueprint for poets seeking to balance tradition with innovation. For readers, his work offers a nuanced understanding of how movement—whether physical, emotional, or intellectual—shapes our identities and worldviews.

Exploring Thom Gunn's Most Notable Works on Movement and Change

To fully appreciate Thom Gunn on the move, it's helpful to examine some of his key poems where these themes come alive. Here are a few standout pieces that showcase his engagement with movement in its many forms:

- **The Sense of Movement:** This poem captures the kinetic energy of life's constant flux, emphasizing the inevitability of change and the beauty found in motion.
- **Touch:** A deeply personal exploration of intimacy and connection, reflecting how movement between individuals can transform relationships and self-perception.
- **On the Move:** Aptly titled, this poem directly addresses themes of travel, transition, and the emotional landscapes encountered along the way.
- **The Man with Night Sweats:** While centered on the AIDS epidemic, this work also metaphorically addresses the movement from health to illness, life to death, and the resilience found in facing mortality.

Engaging with these poems offers readers a window into Gunn's evolving thought and artistic innovation, illustrating how movement permeates his work on multiple levels.

Final Reflections on Thom Gunn on the Move

Thom Gunn's life and poetry embody the spirit of being on the move—physically, emotionally, and creatively. His journey from England to America, from formal tradition to modern experimentation, mirrors the broader human experience of navigating change and seeking meaning. In celebrating Gunn on the move, we not only honor his literary legacy but also invite ourselves to embrace the movement inherent in our own stories.

Whether you are a longtime fan of Thom Gunn or new to his work, exploring his poetry through the lens of movement reveals the depth and vitality of his voice. It encourages us to reflect on how we, too, are constantly on the move, shaping and reshaping our identities through the paths we choose and the changes we endure.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Thom Gunn and what is 'On the Move' about?

Thom Gunn was a British-American poet known for his innovative and modernist poetry. 'On the Move' is one of his poems that explores themes of freedom, identity, and the experience of constant change.

What are the main themes in Thom Gunn's poem 'On the Move'?

The main themes of 'On the Move' include freedom, mobility, the search for identity, and the transient nature of life. The poem reflects the experiences of being constantly on the go and the emotional and psychological effects of such a lifestyle.

How does Thom Gunn use imagery in 'On the Move' to convey movement?

In 'On the Move,' Thom Gunn uses vivid and dynamic imagery related to travel, such as roads, vehicles, and changing landscapes, to evoke a sense of motion and transition. This imagery helps readers feel the restlessness and fluidity that characterize the poem.

What is the significance of the title 'On the Move' in Thom Gunn's work?

The title 'On the Move' signifies the poem's focus on motion, change, and the continuous journey of life. It reflects the poet's contemplation of personal and existential movement, both physical and metaphorical.

How does 'On the Move' reflect Thom Gunn's own life experiences?

Thom Gunn's own experiences of living between England and the United States, as well as his openness about his identity and lifestyle, inform the themes of 'On the Move.' The poem captures the sense of displacement and freedom that Gunn experienced throughout his life.

Why is 'On the Move' considered relevant in contemporary poetry?

'On the Move' remains relevant today because it addresses universal themes of change, identity, and freedom that resonate with modern readers. Its exploration of mobility and self-discovery reflects ongoing societal conversations about personal and cultural transitions.

Additional Resources

****Thom Gunn on the Move: Exploring the Poetic Journey and Evolution of a Modern Voice****

thom gunn on the move encapsulates more than just a phrase—it reflects a dynamic exploration of movement, transformation, and the nuanced transitions within the work of one of the 20th century's most influential poets. Thom Gunn, an Anglo-American poet known for his sharp intellect and innovative style, often grappled with themes of motion, identity, and change. This article delves into the significance of movement in Gunn's poetry, tracing how his personal migrations and the socio-cultural shifts of his time shaped his literary voice.

Understanding Thom Gunn's Poetic Trajectory

Thom Gunn's life was marked by physical and intellectual mobility. Born in England in 1929, Gunn relocated to the United States in the 1950s, a move that profoundly influenced his poetic output. The phrase "thom gunn on the move" aptly captures this transatlantic shift and the broader thematic currents that run through his poetry.

Gunn's work is often categorized within the modernist tradition, but his poetic style defies easy classification. His exploration of movement spans literal travel, emotional shifts, and the fluidity of identity. This multidimensional approach has made his poetry a subject of ongoing critical interest, particularly in discussions around the intersections of place, self, and artistic expression.

The Impact of Geographic and Cultural Movement

Gunn's emigration from England to San Francisco in 1954 represents a pivotal moment in his life and career. This relocation exposed him to the burgeoning Beat Generation and the vibrant countercultural

scene of the West Coast. Unlike many of his contemporaries, Gunn maintained a distinct poetic voice—one that balanced formal rigor with experimental innovation.

The move itself is emblematic of the broader theme of “on the move” within his work: the tension between rootedness and mobility, tradition and change. His poetry often reflects the challenges and opportunities of displacement, as well as the search for belonging in new cultural contexts.

Movement as a Motif in Gunn’s Poetry

Movement in Gunn’s poetry is not limited to physical travel; it operates on symbolic and thematic levels. He frequently employs imagery related to transportation, migration, and the passage of time to explore deeper philosophical questions.

For instance, poems such as “The Man with Night Sweats” and “Fighting in the War” engage with movement in relation to illness, mortality, and the relentless progression of life. These poems reveal Gunn’s capacity to intertwine personal experience with universal themes, making “thom gunn on the move” a metaphor for the human condition itself.

Stylistic Innovations and the Dynamics of Change

Gunn’s approach to form and meter also reflects his engagement with movement. Early in his career, he adhered to traditional forms, but over time he embraced more flexible structures, mirroring the flux in his thematic concerns.

His use of enjambment, shifting rhythms, and varied stanza lengths creates a sense of motion within the text, compelling readers to experience the poem as a living, evolving entity. This stylistic fluidity aligns with the concept of “on the move,” emphasizing continuous transformation both in content and form.

Comparing Gunn’s Movement with Contemporary Poets

When examining “thom gunn on the move” alongside the works of contemporaries such as Allen Ginsberg or Robert Lowell, distinct differences emerge. While Ginsberg’s poetry often captures the raw, sprawling energy of urban life and protest, and Lowell’s work delves into confessional intensity, Gunn’s poetry navigates movement with a meditative precision.

This contrast highlights Gunn’s unique position: a poet who bridges classical restraint with modern thematic preoccupations. His movement is measured yet restless, deliberate yet open-ended, providing a compelling counterpoint within mid-20th century American poetry.

Thematic Exploration: Identity, Sexuality, and Social Change

Movement for Thom Gunn also intersects with evolving notions of identity, particularly in relation to his sexuality and social environment. As an openly gay man writing during a period of significant social upheaval, Gunn's poetry reflects the ongoing negotiation of selfhood amidst shifting cultural landscapes.

Sexual Identity and the Poetics of Movement

The motif of movement in Gunn's work often parallels the fluidity of sexual identity. His poems candidly explore desire, love, and the complexities of gay experience, challenging conventional norms and expanding the boundaries of poetic subject matter.

For example, in collections such as **The Man with Night Sweats**, Gunn addresses the AIDS crisis with unflinching honesty, portraying the movement of illness and mortality alongside emotional resilience and communal solidarity. This intertwining of personal and political movement underscores the depth and urgency of his work.

Social Change and Poetic Responsiveness

Gunn's poetry is responsive to the social transformations of the 1960s and beyond. The "on the move" theme resonates with the era's broader currents—civil rights, sexual liberation, and cultural redefinition. Gunn's work captures the ambivalence and complexity of these movements, neither fully embracing nor rejecting the radicalism of the time.

This nuanced position enriches his poetry, providing layers of meaning that invite sustained critical engagement. His ability to articulate the tensions inherent in social change continues to make his work relevant to contemporary readers and scholars.

Influence and Legacy: Thom Gunn's Poetic Movement in Context

Thom Gunn's legacy is inextricably linked to the concept of movement—both as a lived experience and as a poetic strategy. His influence extends across generations of poets who seek to navigate the interplay between tradition and innovation, place and identity.

The Continuing Relevance of “Thom Gunn on the Move”

In today’s literary landscape, marked by global mobility and evolving identities, Gunn’s exploration of movement feels particularly prescient. His work anticipates contemporary concerns with migration, displacement, and the fluidity of self.

Moreover, academic interest in his poetry continues to grow, with scholars examining how his formal techniques and thematic concerns resonate within broader cultural and political frameworks. The phrase “thom gunn on the move” thus serves as a touchstone for understanding not only his poetry but also the ongoing dialogues about change and continuity in literature.

Key Works Exemplifying Movement

Some of Gunn’s most notable poems that encapsulate his engagement with movement include:

- **“On the Move”** — A direct meditation on travel and transition, this poem highlights the physical and emotional dimensions of movement.
- **“The Man with Night Sweats”** — Addressing illness and mortality, it portrays the movement between life and death with poignant clarity.
- **“Fighting in the War”** — A reflection on conflict and change, blending historical and personal movement.
- **“My Sad Captains”** — This collection as a whole charts Gunn’s evolving poetic journey and his responses to shifting cultural landscapes.

Each of these works reveals different facets of Gunn’s nuanced treatment of movement, reinforcing why this theme is central to his poetic identity.

The exploration of “thom gunn on the move” offers a rich field for literary analysis, illuminating how movement functions as a vital organizing principle in his oeuvre. Through a combination of formal innovation, thematic depth, and cultural engagement, Gunn crafted poetry that remains vital and resonant—a testament to the enduring power of motion in art and life.

Thom Gunn On The Move

thom gunn on the move: The Sense of Movement Thom Gunn, 2010-12-09 The Sense of Movement, Thom Gunn's second collection, was first published in 1957. 'This book . . . establishes Gunn as one of the few really interesting poets of his generation and promises greatly for the future.' Times Literary Supplement

thom gunn on the move: At the Barriers Joshua Weiner, 2009-08-01 Maverick gay poetic icon Thom Gunn (1929–2004) and his body of work have long dared the British and American poetry establishments either to claim or disavow him. To critics in the UK and US alike, Gunn demonstrated that formal poetry could successfully include new speech rhythms and open forms and that experimental styles could still maintain technical and intellectual rigor. Along the way, Gunn's verse captured the social upheavals of the 1960s, the existential possibilities of the late twentieth century, and the tumult of post-Stonewall gay culture. The first book-length study of this major poet, *At the Barriers* surveys Gunn's career from his youth in 1930s Britain to his final years in California, from his earliest publications to his later unpublished notebooks, bringing together some of the most important poet-critics from both sides of the Atlantic to assess his oeuvre. This landmark volume traces how Gunn, in both his life and his writings, pushed at boundaries of different kinds, be they geographic, sexual, or poetic. *At the Barriers* will solidify Gunn's rightful place in the pantheon of Anglo-American letters.

thom gunn on the move: *Thom Gunn* Thom Gunn, 2007 One of six new additions to the acclaimed Poet to Poet series to be published this year.

thom gunn on the move: *The Poetry of Thom Gunn* Stefania Michelucci, 2008-12-24 Thom Gunn served as a mouthpiece for his time, illustrating the social, cultural, and historical transformations that have characterized western civilization from World War II until today. Starting with theoretical premises drawn from philosophy, anthropology, and sociology, this work examines Thom Gunn's entire poetic career. In Gunn's early poetry, the author argues, the predominant theme is the desire for freedom from the painful prison of the intellect and from the masks that the individual feels compelled to wear even in his sexual relationships. In Gunn's later poetry, the author notes a gradual opening to human relationships and to Nature, which is also Gunn's vindication and reevaluation of his own nature and the liberation of his long repressed and hidden homosexuality.

thom gunn on the move: *On the Move* Oliver Sacks, 2015-04-28 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A "wonderful memoir" (Los Angeles Times) about a brilliantly unconventional physician and writer, a man who has illuminated the many ways that the brain makes us human. • "Intimate.... Brim[s] with life and affection." —The New York Times When Oliver Sacks was twelve years old, a perceptive schoolmaster wrote: "Sacks will go far, if he does not go too far." It is now abundantly clear that Sacks has never stopped going. With unbridled honesty and humor, Sacks writes about the passions that have driven his life—from motorcycles and weight lifting to neurology and poetry. He writes about his love affairs, both romantic and intellectual; his guilt over leaving his family to come to America; his bond with his schizophrenic brother; and the writers and scientists—W. H. Auden, Gerald M. Edelman, Francis Crick—who have influenced his work.

thom gunn on the move: **Cambridge Book of English Verse 1939-1975** Alan Bold, 1976-03-04 A collection of poems by the following 19th-20th century English poets: Gerard Manley Hopkins, Thomas Hardy, W. B. Yeats, Edward Thomas, Walter de la Mare, D. H. Lawrence, Ezra Pound, T. S. Eliot, Isaac Rosenberg, Wilfred Owen, W. H. Auden, Edwin Muir, Hugh MacDiarmid, Robert Graves, William Empson, Dylan Thomas, Philip Larkin, Charles Tomlinson, Thom Gunn, Ted Hughes, and Sylvia Plath.

thom gunn on the move: Writing on the Move W. D. Redfern, 2004 Albert Londres (1884-1932) was a much-translated French investigative journalist whose journalistic coverage and themes were wide-ranging. This study compares and contrasts Londres' work with that of other globe-trotting reporters from France, Britain and the USA who deal with history in the making.

thom gunn on the move: A Study Guide for Thom Gunn's "Considering the Snail" Gale, Cengage Learning, A Study Guide for Thom Gunn's Considering the Snail, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Poetry for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Poetry for Students for all of your research needs.

thom gunn on the move: Selected Poems of Thom Gunn Thom Gunn, 2017-07-04 Thom Gunn's controlled use of form and the metaphysical was in evidence from his first collection, *Fighting Terms*, in 1954, which was widely regarded - perhaps not entirely accurately - as a contributor to 'The Movement' and the opposition to modernism. The same technical ability and formal prowess endured after he moved from Cambridge to San Francisco, though became, from *The Sense of Movement* (1959) onwards, shot through with a new mood of hedonism, freedom and the excesses of the gay and counter-cultural scenes of 1960s America in poems written in celebration of rock and roll, myth, and hallucinogenic drugs. The '80s saw a shift in this life with the devastation of the Aids epidemic, which claimed the lives of a number of Gunn's friends. Many of these friends are memorialised in the moving, passionate and humane collections of his later years; the Forward Prize-winning *The Man With the Night Sweats*, and *Boss Cupid*, Gunn's last collection, published in 2000. This *Selected Poems*, compiled by his friend Clive Wilmer and accompanied by insightful notes, serves to honour a true original, a thrill-seeker in the language, and to exhibit the best of Thom Gunn's electric, powerful, intensely joyful poems.

thom gunn on the move: Thom Gunn Michael Nott, 2024-06-18 A no-holds-barred biography of the great poet and sexual rebel, who could "give the dead a voice, make them sing" (Hilton Als, *The New Yorker*). Thom Gunn was not a confessional poet, and he withheld much, but inseparable from his rigorous, formal poetry was a ravenous, acute experience of life and death. Raised in Kent, England, and educated at Cambridge, Gunn found a home in San Francisco, where he documented the city's queerness, the hippie mentality (and drug use) of the sixties, and the tragedy and catastrophic impact of the AIDS crisis in the eighties and beyond. As Jeremy Lybarger wrote in *The New Republic*, the author of *Moly* and *The Man with Night Sweats* was "an agile poet who renovated tradition to accommodate the rude litter of modernity." *Thom Gunn: A Cool Queer Life* chronicles, for the first time, the largely undocumented life of this revolutionary poet. Michael Nott, a coeditor of *The Letters of Thom Gunn*, draws on letters, diaries, notebooks, interviews, and Gunn's poetry to create a portrait as vital as the man himself. Nott writes with insight and intimacy about the great sweep of Gunn's life: his traditional childhood in England; his mother's suicide; the mind-opening education he received at Cambridge, reading Shakespeare and John Donne; his decades in San Francisco and with his life partner, Mike Kitay; and his visceral experience of sex, drugs, and loss. *Thom Gunn: A Cool Queer Life* is a long-awaited, landmark study of one of England and America's most innovative poets.

thom gunn on the move: New Selected Poems Thom Gunn, 2025-06-25 A new selection of poems by the celebrated gay poet Thom Gunn has been described as one of the most singular and compelling poets in English during the past half-century (*Times Literary Supplement*). Gunn was an Elizabethan poet in modern guise, though there's nothing archaic, quaint, or sepia-toned about his poetry. His method was dispassionate and rigorous, uniquely well suited for making a poetic record of the tumultuous time in which he lived. Gunn's dozens of brilliantly realized poems about nature, friendship, literature, sexual love, and death are set against the ever-changing backdrop of San Francisco—the druggy, politically charged sixties and the plague years of AIDS in the eighties. Perhaps no contemporary poet was better equipped—by temperament, circumstance, or poetic gift—to engage the subjects of eros and thanatos than Thom Gunn. This *New Selected Poems*, compiled by his friend Clive Wilmer and accompanied by insightful notes, is the first edition to represent the full arc of Gunn's inimitable career.

thom gunn on the move: The Cambridge History of English Poetry Michael O'Neill, 2010-04-29 Poetry written in English is uniquely powerful and suggestive in its capacity to surprise, unsettle, shock, console, and move. The *Cambridge History of English Poetry* offers sparkingly fresh

and dynamic readings of an extraordinary range of poets and poems from Beowulf to Alice Oswald. An international team of experts explores how poets in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland use language and to what effect, examining questions of form, tone, and voice; they comment, too, on how formal choices are inflected by the poet's time and place. The Cambridge History of English Poetry is the most comprehensive and authoritative history of the field from early medieval times to the present. It traces patterns of continuity, transformation, transition, and development. Covering a remarkable array of poets and poems, and featuring an extensive bibliography, the scope and depth of this major work of reference make it required reading for anyone interested in poetry.

thom gunn on the move: *The Movement Reconsidered* Zachary Leader, 2009-05-07 The Movement was the preeminent poetical grouping of post-war Britain. This collection of original essays by distinguished poets, critics, and scholars from Britain and America provides new accounts not only of the best-known of Movement writers - Philip Larkin, Kingsley Amis, Thom Gunn and Donald Davie - but of less-familiar contemporaries.

thom gunn on the move: *Articulate Flesh* Gregory Woods, 1987-01-01 Arguing that homosexual poetry is part of the mainstream of poetic writing--not a distinct and differentiated category within it--Gregory Woods provides a fastidious study of homosexual poetry in the twentieth century that emphasizes the homo-erotic themes in the works of D.H. Lawrence, Hart Crane, W.H. Auden, Allen Ginsberg, and Thom Gunn. Woods's controlled and elegant study demonstrates that a critic who ignores the sexual orientation of a poet, particularly a love poet, risks overlooking the significance of the poetry itself.

thom gunn on the move: *A Literary History of Cambridge* Graham Chainey, 1995-07-27 A new edition of the first full account of Cambridge's rich literary associations over five centuries.

thom gunn on the move: *Carpenters of Light* Neil Powell, 1980-01-01 To find more information about Rowman and Littlefield titles, please visit www.rowmanlittlefield.com.

thom gunn on the move: *Of Women, Poetry, and Power* Zofia Burr, 2002 The haunting legacy of Emily Dickinson's life and work has shaped a romantic conception of poetry as private, personal, and expressive that has governed the reception of subsequent American women poets. *Of Women, Poetry, and Power* demonstrates how the canonization of Dickinson has consolidated limiting assumptions about women's poetry in twentieth-century America and models an alternative reading practice that allows for deeper engagement with the political work of modern poetry. Analyzing the reception of poems by Josephine Miles, Gwendolyn Brooks, Audre Lorde, and Maya Angelou, Zofia Burr shows the persistence of these critical outlooks and dispels the belief that we have long since moved beyond such limiting gendered expectations. Turning away from an obsessive concern with a poet's biography, Burr's readings of contemporary women's poetry accentuate its engagement and provocation of readers through its forms of address. Burr shows how displacing the limits of dominant reception is possible by approaching poetry as communicative utterance, not just as self-expression.

thom gunn on the move: *Literature, Politics and Culture in Postwar Britain* Alan Sinfield, 2007-03-15 *Literature, Politics and Culture in Postwar Britain* is a landmark work in contemporary literary and cultural analysis. It offers a provocative and brilliant account of political change since 1945 and how such change shaped the cultural output of our time. It also looks at how and when literature intersects with other cultural forms - including jazz and rock music, television, journalism, commercial and mass cultures - and the growth of American cultural dominance. This edition includes a new foreword by the author.

thom gunn on the move: *Super Gay Poems* Stephanie Burt, 2025-04-01 Esteemed scholar, poet, and critic Stephanie Burt anthologizes five decades of verse for and by queer Americans. Interpreted by Burt, the poems of Frank O'Hara, Audre Lorde, Judy Grahn, James Merrill, Thom Gunn, Jackie Kay, Adrienne Rich, Chen Chen, The Cyborg Jillian Weise, and others trace a flourishing of queer life from Stonewall to today.

thom gunn on the move: *A Companion to Poetic Genre* Erik Martiny, 2011-10-13 A COMPANION TO POETIC GENRE A COMPANION TO POETIC GENRE This eagerly awaited

Companion features over 40 contributions from leading academics around the world, and offers critical overviews of numerous poetic genres. Covering a range of cultural traditions from Britain, Ireland, North America, Japan and the Caribbean, among others, this valuable collection considers ancient genres such as the elegy, the ode, the ghazal, and the ballad, before moving on to Medieval and Renaissance genres originally invented or codified by the Troubadours or poets who followed in their wake. The book also approaches genres driven by theme, such as the calypso and found poetry. Each chapter begins by defining the genre in its initial stages, charting historical developments and finally assessing its latest mutations, be they structural, thematic, parodic, assimilative, or subversive.

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