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## Taking Shape - carmina figurata

By Jan D. Hodge

Able Muse Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 80 pages. Dimensions: 9.2in. x 7.5in. x 0.2in. An eclectic mix of shapes and subjects populate Taking Shape. Jan D. and Hodge's full-length collection of carmina figurata (sometimes called shaped poems, pattern poetry, or figure poems). Hodge's many masterpieces include depictions of a saxophone, a Madonna and Child, a combination pianoguillotine, and other silhouettes of amazing difficulty and detail. These poems are not only visually stunning, they are also sonically beautiful, and retain a transcendent freedom while conforming to both illustrative and metrical constraints. Taking Shape is a visual feast of inspired poetry. PRAISE FOR TAKING SHAPE: Are not all printed formal poems shaped poems? The sonnet, the hymn, the sestina, and the ghazal all have characteristic shapes rather like boxes that confine their subjects. In Jan D. Hodge's Taking Shape the subjects have burst from their cages and confront us immediately with what they are. Then the words they are made of can reveal their inner beings. The long closure of "Spring" describes the best way to read these poems. I have long known what prayer is, but I never knew what one looked like...



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