

CONTENTS

A Word of Appreciation	xi
I. Introducing Thomas Kunst	1
Sources of the Art of Kunst	3
Kunst's Poetic Art: The Poetry of Music and the Music of Poetry	6
Concerning Contemporary German Poetry	7
The Artist's Vocation	9
Writing Women	10
The Seas, Islands, and Other Passageways	11
In Conclusion	12
A Word About the Selections of Poetry and Apparatus	13
II. Selected Poems	15
THE YOUNG POETS AND THE MIDDLE-AGED	17
THERE WERE ALREADY BETTER TIMES AHEAD	18
IN SOUTHERN GERMANY THERE ARE PARODISTS	19
AH, IF ONLY I HAD REMAINED IN THE BACKCOUNTRY	20
I WANT POEMS THAT ARE POSSESSED	21

IF YOUR SHADOW AT LEAST,	22
PICK-UP LEGEND, SPENT YESTERDAY EVENING ALONE	25
DEAR HELENE VON NIENDORFF, FROM NOW	
ON IT SEEMS	26
I DRINK WITH YOU, I RIDE, AND I FENCE	27
WHEN YOU DRINK I DON'T THINK ABOUT YOU	28
<i>And I heard what people were saying</i>	29
A SEA ABANDONED BY THE CITY	30
I ALWAYS CARRY A FISH WITH ME, TO BE	32
DEAR MISS VON NIENDORFF, IT HAS	33
IN YOUR EYES DOLPHINS SOMETIMES FLOATED	34
A SHIP TWO HORSES AND A NECK BAND WITH FRUIT	35
THE STORY OF THE WOMAN IN SWITZERLAND	37
MOMBASA ISLAND, JULY SECOND, MY DEAR	38
ABOUT THE END OF LONG-DISTANCE	
RELATIONSHIPS, THE	40
DEAR PATRICIA STEUDEL, WHAT CAN I SAY, IT'S	42
DEAR HELENE VON NIENDORFF, THE ERA	
OF DUELING	43
WITH YOUR GLANCES YOU CANNOT PREVENT	44
DEAR LEHENI, JUST NOW ON BRIESEBACH'S DESK	45
IF I WERE TO DIE NOW I WOULD	46
YOU CHOSE JIGSAWS AS YOUR SUBJECT	
OF INTEREST	47
DEAR MISS VON NIENDORFF, I'VE BEEN WATCHING	48
DEAR MISS VON NIENDORFF, I HOPE	49
DEAR HELENE, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO MAKE	50
ON THE THIRTEENTH OR FOURTEENTH DAY	52
IF WE HADN'T MET AT THE TRIAL COURSE	
ON THE HIMALAYAS	53
ACROSS THE GERMAN BORDERS	
INCONSPICULOUSLY DO YOU	54
NOVEMBER NINETEEN SEVENTY-FOUR, THE FIRST	56
WINTER WITHOUT ILLUMINATED DISPLAY, YOU	59

SNOW IS FALLING ON MELODIE JOHNSON, NOT A TOTALLY	60
DIDN'T YOUR FATHER PLAY FOR THE DODGERS IN IT'S GETTING TO BE TIME FOR IT TO BE NIGHT	62
THE PLASTER-CAST OF YOUR DWELLING	63
COYOTES IN THE COURTYARDS, JAVELINAS, WE DON'T TALK MUCH ANY MORE, WE COUNT TRAINS	64
I WOULD STILL HAVE LIKED SO MUCH TO CALL YOU	65
PLEASE DON'T GO BACK TO YOUR APARTMENT ANY MORE	66
DEAR LEHENI, EVER SINCE BRIESEBACH YESTERDAY	67
I TAKE EVERYTHING BACK, NIZA, THE	68
EVERYTHING COULD HAVE BEEN SO WONDERFUL WITH	69
MY LITTLE WITCH RAN AWAY FROM ME ONE DAY	70
WE LOVE EACH OTHER, IN CASE WE SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN,	72
BE PATIENT, WE'RE IN A SAFE PLACE,	74
GIFTS ARE THE DEATH OF SIMPLE SPEECH	75
WHEN IN THE FIRST PHASE OF FALLING IN LOVE SOMEONE DIES	76
MY EYE AND MY HEART ARE NOW A COUPLE	77
III. Selected Letters	81
“About Having a Crush” (1982)	83
Leipzig, October 7, 1989 Dearest Feri-San	86
Leipzig, August 17, 2010 Dear Feri-San	90
IV. Other Writings	95
A Book Review. “Thoughts on Robert Kelly's Book, Sleepless Beauty”	97
Acceptance Speech: “Poesy and Naiveté. On the State of Poetry Just Behind the Universities”	102
Eulogy: “On the Death of Ulrich Zieger” (1961–2015)	106
IT WOULD BE EASY TO SHOW HOW THE BEST	107

V. Self-Interview (Thomas Kunst)	109
FROM THE NOTES OF THE CASTLE GARDENER	110
COOKING TOGETHER, TANGO-CLASS, MUSEUM	111
 VI. Interviewing the Author	115
Ten Questions for a Great Poet	117
THE COUNTRIES RESEMBLE EACH OTHER, THE INDUSTRIES	117
 Appendix	125
A. Thomas Kunst. Curriculum Vitae	125
B. On Facebook	125
C. Published Works	125
D. CDs	126
E. Anthologies and Literary Journals (Containing Poems by Thomas Kunst)	127
F. Videos, YouTube, and Various Other Online Sources	127
G. Translations of Kunst's Work into Other Languages	128
H. Poetry Reading in Tucson, Arizona	128
I. Correspondence	129
J. Laudatio	129
K. Select Bibliography	129
 Glossary of Names, Places, and Terms	133