

PRESS RELEASE: POETRY / INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS

The sea is spread and cleaved and furled

Ahren Warner

With an introduction by Vahni Capildeo

Published: 4 May 2020 | Price: £12.00 paperback | ISBN: 978-1-9160520-9-3

'Ahren Warner has a claim to be the "poet's poet" of his generation. Even in apparently domestic and personal guise, he's a writer whose work conveys voluptuous but intelligent delight in language and technique.' – **Carol Rumens, *The Guardian***

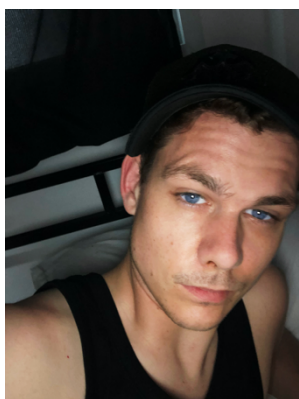


The sea is spread and cleaved and furled is an interdisciplinary book and film-work by poet and visual artist Ahren Warner. It is a sequence of lyric poems, a narrative, voice-over and compendium of notes-to-the-self.

Written and filmed across thirteen countries, from the Greek Islands to South East Asia to the Black Sea, the Balkans and the Baltic, it is at once a travelogue and an exploration of stagnating memory, of mental fracturing and its corollary: the exuberant performance of the self.

It is at once a love poem, an intermedia obsession with *cats*, and the personal and philosophical exploration of alienation, moving from Andrew Marvell to Cardi B, from Foucault and *Back to the Future* to the inane and repetitive close reading of Drake.

The sea is spread and cleaved and furled is a poem and a film about the veneer of dialogue, narcissism and pleasure, about contemporary economies of capital, human movement and desire, and the resistance of the sensible or affective world to language itself.



Ahren Warner is a poet, artist and critic. Previous books include *Confer* (2011), *Pretty* (2013) and *Hello. Your promise has been extracted* (2017), a collection of poetry, lyric prose and photographs. His work has received awards including an Arts Foundation Fellowship, Eric Gregory Award and several Poetry Book Society Recommendations, whilst he has either exhibited or screened film-works or photography at venues including the Centro de Cultura Digital (Mexico City), EU National Institute of Cultures (Athens) and Great North Museum (Newcastle). In addition to his poetry, he co-edited *The Contemporary Poetry Archive* (EUP, 2019) and has published a variety of critical essays. He was Poetry Editor of *Poetry London* from 2013 to 2019 and is currently a Research Fellow in the School of Creative Arts, Loughborough University.

Praise for Ahren Warner

'The experience of Ahren Warner's new book is part invitation and part secrecy. As I read it I felt I had wandered from a party and stumbled into something vulnerable, something human and real beyond the clinking of glasses and fake laughter. That I had gotten the chance to hide in a closet and listen to a conversation I needed to hear but couldn't quite access on my own. There is a conversation between the text and the film, a conversation between the speaker and the other, and most importantly – a conversation between Mr. Warner and himself. What a strange joy to be invited in.'

– **Matthew Dickman**

'Theatrical, toxic and oddly gorgeous... Warner moves from playful social observation, through reflections on memory and artifice, to a near-Baudelairean spleen, his games with language and ideas as serious in their investigations of the given world as any philosophy.'

– **John Burnside**

About Prototype

Prototype was founded in 2019 by Jess Chandler, co-founder of the independent publishing houses Test Centre and House Sparrow Press. Established to continue and develop the work begun by Test Centre, Prototype is committed to creating new possibilities in the publishing of fiction and poetry through a flexible, interdisciplinary approach. Each publication is unique in its form and presentation, and the aesthetic of each object is considered critical to its production.

Through the discovery of high-quality work across genres, Prototype strives to increase audiences for experimental writing, as the home for writers and artists whose work requires a creative vision not offered by mainstream literary publishers.

Prototype/Test Centre's back catalogue includes works by Derek Jarman, Max Porter, Holly Pester, Iain Sinclair, Sam Riviere, Sophie Collins, Chris Petit, Jack Underwood, Rachael Allen, Stephen Watts, Wayne Holloway-Smith and Jonathan Meades. Recent publications include the acclaimed debuts *Fatherhood* by Caleb Klaces, *I'm Afraid That's All We've Got Time For* by Man Booker-shortlisted writer and translator Jen Calleja, and the collaborative anthology *Try To Be Better*. Forthcoming titles include the debut novel by Turner Prize-winning artist Helen Marten, *The Boiled in Between* (September 2020).

For further details, and to view our back catalogue, please visit www.prototypepublishing.co.uk

For more information contact Jess Chandler:

jess@prototypepublishing.co.uk | +44 (0)7870646488

The sea is spread and cleaved and furred is generously supported by Arts Council England and is the first output of a wider project exploring interactions between poetry and film.

