

Breton Books is pleased to announce publication of

BELIEVING THE LINE

The Jack Siegel Poems by Mark Silverberg

JACK SIEGEL WAS THE QUINTESSENTIAL SINGLE-MINDED ARTIST: difficult, self-absorbed, and completely dedicated to his work. He spent his days walking city streets, living on bagels and sardines, and sketching people: in parks, cafes, hotel lobbies, back stage in theatres and in train stations. He had little regular employment, no long-term fixed address, few lasting relationships. Even after he was declared legally blind in 1988, Siegel continued to draw up until his last days.

An isolated, discontented, insecure man, Jack Siegel created art that tells a completely different story of community and connection, vision and respect—despite its lack of recognition by all but a few connoisseurs.

Mark Silverberg's 65 poems in **BELIEVING THE LINE** resurrect Siegel's nearly lost work. They create a linguistic counterpoint which, in one critic's words, "etches in poetic line the impact, allusiveness and pathos of images which illuminate the extraordinariness of everyday street life in Montreal, New York and Toronto."

"Jack Siegel died penniless, alone, and unrecognized," wrote George Payerle. "**BELIEVING THE LINE** should go a long way toward remedying that last, regrettable condition."

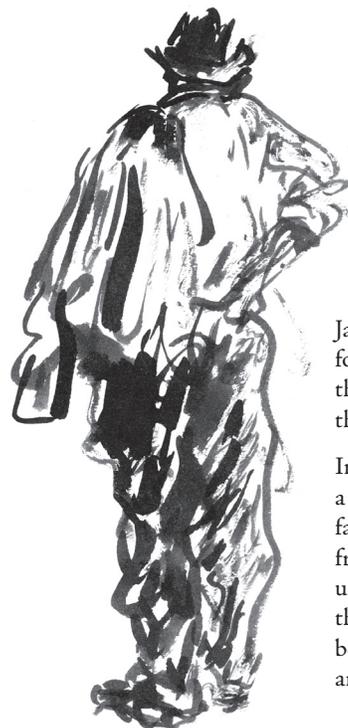


"Mark Silverberg's response to Siegel's work creates a sense, at once vivid and haunting, of intimate distance between the two artists and their art forms."

— Sean Howard

"These poems do far more than simply respond to visual images. They give voice to the yearning that all smitten viewers suffer on seeing work that moves us—the desire to affect the lines that have so affected us."

— Kathy Mac [Kathleen McConnell]



Jack's work had no room
for the dysfunctions
that drove him,
the endless silent reprisals

Instead we're given
a series of inscrutable backs,
faces turned
from the light
unspeakable
their motives veiled
beneath hats
and hunched shoulders

— Mark Silverberg

POET, EDUCATOR, AND CRITIC MARK SILVERBERG is Associate Professor of English at Cape Breton University where he specializes in American poetry, visual arts, and poetic collaborations. He is the author of *The New York School Poets and the Neo-Avant-Garde* and editor of *New York School Collaborations: The Color of Vowels*.

BELIEVING THE LINE is available through bookstores across Canada. It can also be purchased online at Amazon and Chapters and at www.capebretonbooks.com.

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