

THREE VISUAL LIP POEMS

Ernst Jandl, translated by Rosmarie Waldrop

*these poems are dedicated to:
the moustache of daniel jones,
the great english phoneticist*

the visual lip poem is the reverse of the visual paper poem. the speaker is the paper of the visual lip poem. the visual lip poem is spoken without tone. it is written on air by lips. inexperienced readers had best rehearse the visual lip poem in front of a mirror. with experienced readers the motion of the mouth is sufficient to create the visual impression of the poem. he who knows visual lip poems by heart will never go blind. the visual lip poem cures deafness, muteness and deaf-muteness. only a person born blind cannot experience it.

1.

öiua
öiua
öiua
ö
i—i
u
a
a
a

2.

m
w
m
w
m
w
o
m

3.

a
ba
a
ba
f
i
ba
bi
ab