



# THE WORLD CUT OUT WITH CROOKED SCISSORS

SELECTED PROSE POEMS BY  
CARSTEN RENÉ NIELSEN

Translated from the Danish by David Keplinger

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“Carsten René Nielsen has reinvented the prose poem as a revelation in a paragraph. His world, skillfully Englished by translator David Keplinger, is full of surprising creatures and equally surprising emotions. Nielsen is a master who deserves to be better known outside his native Denmark.”

—Zack Rogow, Editor and Artistic Director,  
*Two Lines: World Writing in Translation*

“Born in 1966, Nielsen works as a full time writer in Aarhus, the second largest Danish city, an academic and cultural center located on the peninsula of Jutland. Aarhus is also the home of the Grauballe Man, a bog man 2000 years old and

displayed year round at Moesgaard Museum in a wooded area south of the city. This man, his cut open throat, his fractured shin, his beard stubble, his skin—even his fingerprints—preserved by the tannins of the bog, though flattened by its tremendous weight, lies displayed under glass, a ghastly testament to our common tribal past. I find in Nielsen’s poems a similar spectacle—the little glass box of form, and, within, something old, nasty, fascinating, human.”

—David Keplinger, from the translator’s note

## About the Author:

Carsten René Nielsen is the author of eight books of poetry, most recently *Forty-One Animals* (2005), which won him critical acclaim throughout his native Denmark. Recent collections include *Circles* (1998) and *Clairobscur* (2001). His first book, *Mechanic Loves Machinist*, was published in 1989, and was awarded the Michael Strunge Prize for Literature. He has won several fellowships from the Danish Council on the Arts. His poetry has been featured in magazines in Italy, Germany, Canada and the United States. Nielsen lives in Aarhus.

## About the Translator:

David Keplinger’s third poetry book, *The Prayers of Others*, was published in 2006. He has been awarded the T.S. Eliot Prize, as well as fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the Katey Lehman Foundation. His poems appear in *Ploughshares*, *AGNI*, *Poetry*, *The Iowa Review*, *The Gettysburg Review* and many other journals. Keplinger teaches at American University in Washington, D.C.

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