

It Looks Like an Island but Sails Away (Paperback)

"Ralph Hawkins' poems... minimise the gap of 'constructive effort' between the basic seeking of pleasure and pleasurable sensations, and the 'mediated' pleasure of the poem. [...] He does not bother with stage-setting. Each poem launches us into a series of 'direct experiences' from whose course we could work out the shape of the self-experiencing them. Hawkins is not asking how experience happens, but by describing the course of a self he answers the question anyway. The course is one of attention, constantly switching on and off, jumping between planes; Hawkins' method is to eliminate whatever is not interesting, and his poetic line is as rapid, sporadic, shifting, polyvalent, slight and self-reversing as consciousness itself. [...] The removal of conventional connections leaves a vast space for originality; his style is located in the eddies, the jumps."

—Andrew Duncan

COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS COLLECTIONS

"Hawkins is an information-snacker entertainingly on the move. Often using double-spacing, the poems seem to want the reader to leap down across the 'missing' rungs of their verse ladders, moving the reading experience on quickly while also conscious of such lacunae for later reflection. Synecopation and apparent non-sequitur gather a fascinating force..."

—Richard Price, *Times Literary Supplement*

"Hawkins is a very literary poet, very aware of the written artifact as something with a long history and a mass of material accrued to it, and determined to re-invent the whole thing. To him the poem is in no way descriptive or reflective of self or world, but a thing entirely under its own power, a dynamic theatre which creates its own reality: 'everything the poet fakes is real'. [...] With Hawkins [his] is only the beginning – the poem has to renew that independence to the last detail, and all forms of recognition are abandoned. Syntax alone remains intact, in its usual guiding, even chatty, mode, but guides the reader only into states of inconsequence. Anywhere you might be is whipped away from under you; anything you might identify becomes something else."

—Peter Riley, *PIN Review*

"His is a version of New York school poetics, cherished and saved in memory, equipped with a considerable breadth of reading, and a light-fingered touch, which leads to some exotic double-takes on small-town English life; oblique narratives teased out with great delicacy and subtlety, wryly deflated hopes."

—John Mackie, *Poetry Review*

Cover photograph by the author.



Filesize: 5.39 MB

Reviews

The book is straightforward in go through better to understand. it had been writtern quite flawlessly and valuable. You can expect to like the way the author publish this book.

(Reyes Murphy)

IT LOOKS LIKE AN ISLAND BUT SAILS AWAY (PAPERBACK)**DOWNLOAD**

Shearsman Books, United Kingdom, 2015. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Ralph Hawkins poems minimise the gap of constructive effort between the basic seeking of pleasure and pleasurable sensations, and the mediated pleasure of the poem. [...] He does not bother with stage-setting. Each poem launches us into a series of direct experiences from whose course we could work out the shape of the self experiencing them. Hawkins is not asking how experience happens, but by describing the course of a self he answers the question anyway. The course is one of attention, constantly switching on and off, jumping between planes; Hawkins method is to eliminate whatever is not interesting, and his poetic line is as rapid, sporadic, shifting, polyvalent, slight and self-reversing as consciousness itself. [...] The removal of conventional connections leaves a vast space for originality: his style is located in the edits, the jumps. -Andrew Duncan.

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