THE COLLECTED POEMS

A seminal figure in post-World War II literature, Charles Olson (1910-1970) has helped define the postmodern sensibility. His poetry is marked by an almost limitless range of interest and extraordinary depth of feeling. Olson's themes are among the largest conceivable: empowering love, political responsibility, historical discovery and cultural reckoning, the wisdom of dreams and the transformation of consciousness—all carried in a voice both intimate and grand, American and timeless, impassioned and coolly demanding. Until recently, Olson's reputation as...



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Reader's Opinions

(2.2/5.0) Olson is constantly shattering barriers to expression and that means that antecedent forms and traditions are his sounding boards rather than his foundations—his work is always bold, but only occasionally interesting.