

# THE PROSE POEM: AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

Volume 4 | 1995

## A Brief Explanation

Stephen Kuusisto

© Providence College

The author(s) permits users to copy, distribute, display, and perform this work under the following conditions: (1) the original author(s) must be given proper attribution; (2) this work may not be used for commercial purposes; (3) the users may not alter, transform, or build upon this work; (4) users must make the license terms of this work clearly known for any reuse or distribution of this work. Upon request, as holder of this work's copyright, the author(s) may waive any or all of these conditions.

*The Prose Poem: An International Journal* is produced by  
The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress)  
for the Providence College Digital Commons.  
<http://digitalcommons.providence.edu/prosepoems/>

## **Stephen Kuusisto**

### A BRIEF EXPLANATION

I'm alone on a June night in a small New Hampshire cabin. I've had my guide dog for precisely four months. Tonight we lie on the braided oval rug and make noises together, visceral tunes, ossuary music, rubbing our backsides on the wool, emitting a mutual recumbent tongue and throat discord and suddenly it's good, the dog and man making together a tonal anti-type, and the exhausted parts fall away.

We are all self-walled, lamp-lit, hypochondriacal, jumping nervously on narrow bridges of appetite, waiting for Hermes to come and release us. But no more. In booming, rug-raving eloquence, dog and man are alive on the ridge of impediment, feeling something of the sacred beasts. The cardinal center of the well, a place of floating.