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Guy Goffette

Guy Goffette was born in 1947. First a teacher, then a bookseller and editor of the poetry journals *Triangle* and *Apprentypographe* (1980-89), he now works in publishing and lives in Paris. As a poet, he has published some fifteen books, winning the prix Mallarmé in 1989 and the Grand Prix de Poésie in 2001, awarded by the Académie Française for the whole body of his work.

Guy Goffette's book is neither a biography nor a simple evocation of the life and works of the English poet W. H. Auden. It is a twofold poetic encounter that interweaves the lives of the two poets. At the start, Guy Goffette knows nothing about Auden, apart from the one poem he learned by heart, which nourished his own poetry and a photo of the English poet walking in the snow, a photo that Goffette confuses with the eye of a whale. Twenty years later, when Goffette rediscovers Auden who died in 1973, it is a revelation. Goffette asks: 'Where does the frontier lie that separates the portrait of the other from the self-portrait?'



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