

CONTENTS

<i>Preface to the second edition</i>	page vii
<i>Preface to the first edition</i>	xiii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xv
Introduction: Prose and the American crisis of verse	I
1 The generative sentence: William Carlos Williams's <i>Kora in Hell: Improvisations</i>	14
Word versus syntax	14
The generative sentence	31
The "Hey-ding-ding touch"	40
2 "A life tracking itself": Robert Creeley's <i>Presences: A Test for Marisol</i>	57
A conjectural prose	57
Repetition and appearance	69
"A life tracking itself"	79
The morality of measure	89
3 "He chose to include": John Ashbery's <i>Three Poems</i>	101
A translative prose	101
"He chose to include"	117
Ashbery and the French prose poem	126
4 The crisis at present: talk poems and the new poet's prose	136
David Antin's talk poems	137
David Bromige, Ron Silliman, and Michael Davidson	142
Epilogue	150
<i>Notes</i>	162
<i>Index</i>	191