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A strangely compelling amalgam of postulations, propositions, interviews, and opinions, this collection from Bernstein (Donald T. Regan Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Univ. of Pennsylvania) is as much a work of art as a work of criticism. The author is one of the founders of language poetry, an avant-garde movement that arose out of the modernist and imagist schools of the early 20th century, especially the poetry of William Carlos Williams. Reading these "essays" and interviews, one gets a powerful impression of the strengths and weaknesses of a form that emphasizes method over clarity and meaning. A strength is the dynamic juxtaposition of ideas and the feeling of freedom from even the rudiments of syntactical sense. A weakness might be found in the same: sometimes the writing is simply too unfettered and too confusing. The pieces cover topics ranging from the poetry of politics (e.g., Occupy Wall Street), the significance of technology, and the importance of writing and remembering (the Holocaust), but mainly the book is about poets and their poetry. Bernstein is interested in many of the less-celebrated modernists—Louis Zukofsky, Charles Olson—as well as the postmodernists John Ashbery and Robert Creeley, among others. **VERDICT** Readers willing to leap with Bernstein over the chasm of absent syntax and intuition may find inspiration and insight in this fascinating and frustrating compilation. For academic collections and special interest groups.—Herman Sutter, St. Agnes Acad., Houston