



*Geometry of Shadows: The Italian Poems of Giorgio de Chirico*

Translated by Stefania Heim  
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Giorgio de Chirico, known for iconic paintings of sun-scorched Italian squares, train platforms, classical busts, even eggs and rubber gloves, also wrote equally mesmerizing poetry. His Italian poems first appeared in this century in *A Public Space* No. 24 in a series of translations by Stefania Heim, editor and translator of *Geometry of Shadows* (A Public Space Books). In 1916, during the First World War, de Chirico, who was just becoming famous for making the paintings that would inspire Surrealism, returned to Italy to enlist. A medical examination determined him unfit for the front line and, from his desk posting, he launched into a productive creative and intellectual period, writing strange and haunting poems in his native tongue: Italian. These poems share images with his paintings, such as *The Disquieting Muses* and *Melancholia*—shadowed arcades, closed shutters, statues on pedestals, classical gods—giving them new life through language play. De Chirico went on to write poems in Italian throughout his long life, eternally returning to and re-casting his memories and visions. *Geometry of Shadows* collects all of these works for the first time. Dreamers, poets, artists, and creative seekers will find much to accompany them on the journey in this volume, which elegantly displays the poems in their original Italian and new English translations side-by-side.