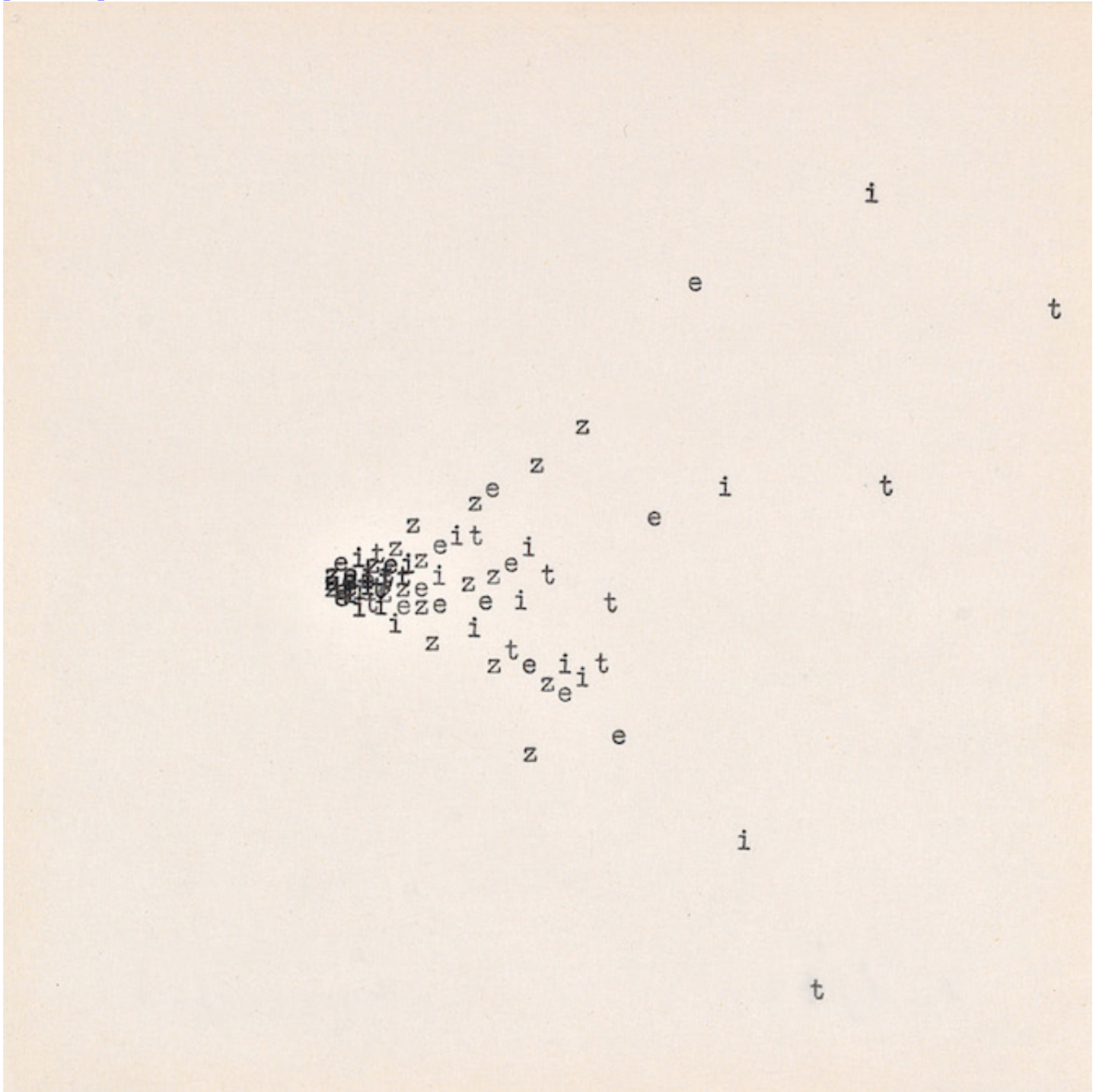


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Heinz Gappmayr

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**An Anthology of Concrete Poetry
published by Primary Information**

February 26 2014

3:00 PM

Originally published in 1967, Something Else Press's *An Anthology of Concrete Poetry* is newly back in print after four decades. A comprehensive American anthology featuring 77 poets, the volume counts 342 pages in black and white print and is edited by Emmett Williams. [*An Anthology of Concrete Poetry*](#) traces the history of the late twentieth-century conceptual poetry movement back through to the use of letter arrangements to create shapes originating in Greek Alexandria three centuries before Christ. Pattern poems from this time are a type of ancient Greek verse that form specific shapes, such as wings and altars, and of which only few examples survive. The Concrete poetry's movement began in the early 1950s in Germany with the Swiss writer Eugen Gomringer, who borrowed the term "concrete" from the practice of his mentor Max Bill. Futurist artists also used forms of concrete poetry to express anarchistic sympathies; Filippo Tommaso Marinetti created his poems as collages, cutting symbols from newspapers as well as drawing. Readers of this anthology will also find examples of concrete poetry that appeared in Austria, in the work of the Vienna Group, where Gerhard Rühm wrote constellations and ideograms, phonetic poems, and montage and photographic texts; Swedish poetry by Öyvind Fahlström, who attempted to associate familiar words nonsensical statements; and by Iceland-based artist Dieter Roth, whose artist books further challenge the premise of concrete poetry, liberating the poem from the author's subjectivity. (Ingrid Melano)

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