

# THE PROSE POEM: AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

Volume 7 | 1998

## **The Trick Is** Richard Krause

© Providence College

The author(s) permits users to copy, distribute, display, and perform this work under the following conditions: (1) the original author(s) must be given proper attribution; (2) this work may not be used for commercial purposes; (3) the users may not alter, transform, or build upon this work; (4) users must make the license terms of this work clearly known for any reuse or distribution of this work. Upon request, as holder of this work's copyright, the author(s) may waive any or all of these conditions.

*The Prose Poem: An International Journal* is produced by  
The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress)  
for the Providence College Digital Commons.  
<http://digitalcommons.providence.edu/prosepoems/>

## **Richard Krause**

### THE TRICK IS

The trick is getting over the expectation that you should be rewarded for a lifetime of work. A comment of admiration, a few newspaper articles, a few roomfuls of people gathered expressly to honor that work. How much of your efforts does that add up to? Nothing to speak of or mention. Rather you should get past that. What you want is nothing people can plan for. No articles, no acceptance, no gatherings—you have stopped bringing your writing to poetry readings. Rather what you want is so much of yourself gathering unnoticed that when it does strike out of the blue it is like lightning, that it carries that much shock, jolt, that people will not have time even to appreciate it. Rather they will be prostrate by it. What you want is work that they don't have the time to read. But not from its being boring, or uninteresting, or their not having the time, but rather because the work itself, the build-up of energy, of electricity, didn't give them the time. That even though they were finally willing to pick it up, they were more quickly struck down.