A CELEBRATION OF JOHN WIENERS

2ND EDITION OF *ACE OF PENTACLES* – RE-TITLED PENTE, *A BOOK OF WOE*

*Artery Editions*

Launch

Unnameable Books 26 October 2023 at 4pm

615 Vanderbilt Avenue, Brooklyn, New York

Almost sixty years after the publication of the first edition of *Ace of Pentacles* (1964) by John Wieners, you are invited to celebrate the release of the radically revised second edition, newly titled *Pente, a book of woe*; a book that began its journey in Gloucester USA back in 1966 to arrive October 26, 2023 at Unnameable Books, 615 Vanderbilt Avenue, Brooklyn at 4pm. Raymond Foye, John Wieners's Executor and champion, [Editor of Wieners's *Selected Poems 1958-1984*, (1986), and Editor also of *Cultural Affairs in Bosto*n 1988)], will recall John Wieners, along with scholars Michael Seth Stewart, Robert Dewhurst, and the publisher Patricia Hope Scanlan and co-editor Libby Musso Dacre, and seek to bring the revised collection to life and do honour to "Wieners ... one of the greatest poets" (Allen Ginsberg, 1982).

Robert Creeley introduced John Wieners at Berkeley University (1965) at a reading of the *Ace of Pentacles* (1964) as a poet who brings "sensitivity, depth and commitment to his writing"  such that "I find no man that has gone beyond him." Similarly, Denise Levertov reviewing in 1965, the *Ace of Pentacles*poems found that they 'are abundant in that quality - call it "magic" or "grace" or "the poetry beyond the poem".

In 1964, John Wieners published his landmark collection *Ace of Pentacles*,containing poems written over the previous ten years, including a few inspired by his breakthrough book from 1958, *Hotel Wentley Poems*. The poet Jeremy Reed who introduces this revised collection, says "John Wieners was so much a poet that his life was inseparable from his work" adding that "Wieners is quite simply a legend to the underground" and that the "*Ace of Pentacles*gives voice to the incurable romantic in Wieners" in a collection that "includes brilliance" and poems "coruscating like black diamonds". In 1966, Wieners spent time in Annisquam with Panna Grady O'Connor, an idyllic summer that ended in heartbreak with him entrusting "to Panna Grady as a gift for our friendship" his own copy of *Ace of Pentacles* with the handwritten inscription “I am making plans for my death now, isn't it strange" and asking for a second edition of the poems to be made. His copy was heavily marked with his longhand revisions and changes made to most of the poems; ranging from the minor (the addition or deletion of a comma, a word removed and then replaced) to the major (whole stanzas crossed out with new text written in); the later poems more heavily revised than the earlier ones. Michael Seth Stewart, editor of *Yours Presently: Selected Letter of John Wieners* (2020), and of *Stars Seen in Person: Selected Journals of John Wieners* (2015), introduces this second edition, writes:

"And now this edition is re-emerging, preserved thanks most especially to Grady, and Montgomery, coaxed into print by Patricia Hope Scanlan. As a longtime devotee of the sublime original, I am thrilled by this spectral edition, which brings new sounds and senses into and out of the poems. It is rare to see an entire book recreated this way, not so much a revision as a reimagining...The title is now forlorn, stygian: *PENTE, a book of woe.* But against this dark background, the poems crack open with light: 'Infinite particles of the divine sun, now /worshipped in the pitches of the night.'  *PENTE*is not a replacement for *Ace of Pentacles*. It’s not a return to some original version, or a correcting of the record. It’s something different, an almost-lost vision. The ghost of a book. “A blue car through the /stars,' still going." (Michael Seth Stewart)

For further information or enquiries please contact Unnameable Books. Website: https://unnameablebooks.square.site/ ; E-mail: **unnameablebooks@earthlink.net** ; Telephone: (718) 789-1534 ; or arteryeditions@yahoo.co.uk, [http://www.arteryeditions.com](http://www.arteryeditions.com/)

Mobile: 00 44 7592617190.

Pente, a book of woe by John Wieners:

ISBN: 9781871671568. General Edition

ISBN: 9781871671575. Art Edition of 20 copies. A Contemporary Art Compilation featuring footage of John Wieners, Robert Duncan, & John Cage.