

The poems in *One More Civil Gesture*, the first full collection by C. E. J. Simons, frequently take their subjects from singularities of nature and art - things that are wonderful not because they are unusual or rare, but because they deserve wonder, no matter how familiar: animal life; the seasons; family; myth; well-known Shakespeare plays. They aim, as Geoffrey Hill has said, to restructure banality into beauty without denying the banal. Simons wrote much of the book in Japan, where he has lived since 2006, and in the interstices of frequent travel in Asia, particularly to Burma, China, and Mongolia; the cultures and landscapes of these places, as well as of England and his native Canada, inform the work. The gestures of these poems are civil in two senses: in their bold and exciting use of inherited forms, whether Western or Japanese; and in their aspiration to eschew self-expression in search of representations of the human capacity to engage with the other - to be civilised through immersion in the unknown. With something of Ted Hughes unflinching power, allied to a troubled compassion, Chris Simons draws on a richly diverse range of subjects in poems that deal with the devastations and losses of the present, the past, and prehistory. Rhyme and violence are yoked together as Time picks history clean as a carcass, a cameraman earns a tough, affecting elegy, the anthropomorphic lie confronts the truth in the hawk's eye, and the civil gesture of poetry encounters much that threatens its attempted composure. This is an impressive first volume. (Michael O'Neill) Beneath the formal gestures in C. E. J. Simons's debut collection, there resides a great sense of loss that threatens to undo each poem from within. Each gesture, each line, is an attempt at domesticating various forms of grief. *One More Civil Gesture* is a work of beauty. (Mariko Nagai) In *One More Civil Gesture* Christopher Simons explores the strictures of civilisation on our natural state: these are layered poems, informed by the poet's travels - both physical and in the metaphorical realms of gold. Simons gives voice to a contained passion - and gives a new edge to contemporary formal writing. (Claudia Daventry) Performance and the stage provide the setting for many of the poems here, and theatrical stylisation - the way that overt artificiality can heighten our sense of the real - is strongly reflected in Simons's deft handling of formal structures. (Alan Buckley)

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**Christopher Simons: One More Civil Gesture (Isobar Press - H-Net One More Civil Gesture by C E J Simons, 9784907359089, available at Book Depository with free delivery worldwide. [Twitterville: How Businesses Can Thrive in the New Global - Google Books Result](#) ICAS video: [\[Book Talk\] One More Civil Gesture News from TUJ - 84 min - Uploaded by Temple University, Japan Campus](#) Book Talk: Christopher Simons: One More Civil Gesture A reading by Professor Christopher **One More Civil Gesture: CEJ Simons: 9784907359089** - The poems in *One More Civil Gesture*, the first full collection of poetry by C. E. J. Simons, were written in Japan, where he has lived since 2006. **One More Civil Gesture - Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies** One More Civil Gesture (excerpt) In Tokyo, Isobar books are available from Books Kinokuniya Tokyo in Shinjuku and Infinity Books (1-2-4 Azumabashi, near **Book Talk: Christopher Simons: One More Civil Gesture - Facebook** Neck of the Woods · One More Civil Gesture · One More Civil Gesture (excerpt) One More Civil Gesture (excerpt). Download (PDF, Unknown) **One More Civil Gesture by****

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