

A DIE WITH TWENTY-SIX FACES

Louis Lüthi

In *A Die with Twenty-Six Faces*, the author—let's call him L.—guides the reader through his collection of alphabet books, that is, books with letters for titles. Some of these titles are well known: Andy Warhol's *a*, Louis Zukofsky's "A", Georges Perec's *W*. Others are obscure, perhaps even imaginary: Zach Sodenstern's *A*, Arnold Skemer's *C* and *D*. Tracing connections between these books, L. elaborates on what the critic Guy Davenport has called the "Kells effect": "the symbolic content of illuminated lettering serving a larger purpose than its decoration of geometry, imps, and signs." Mixing essay and fiction, *A Die with Twenty-Six Faces* is a playful meditation on contemporary literature, typography, and book collecting.

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In cooperation with: Lectoraat Art & Public Space, Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam

Year: 2019

Number of pages: 104

Size: 13 x 20 cm

ISBN: 9789492811394

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