

DEEP IMAGE POETRY

The Deep Image school applies the theories of psychoanalyst Carl Jung to poetry. Like his contemporary, Sigmund Freud, Jung believed that the unconscious reveals itself in symbols, and he was particularly interested in collective unconsciousness, a set of symbols and images shared by members of a culture. Influenced by Jung and by South American and European surrealism, deep imagists called for a **more passionate, less rational poetry** that favored **imaginative leaps** over logic, and **emotion over reason**. Deep image poems are often characterized by startling dislocations of language and logic. Generally concerned with **landscape and natural imagery**, deep image poems tend to depict a sinking into things—water, darkness, or death—and a consequent fuller understanding of life and the self.

Primary Practitioners: Robert Bly, Louise Gluck, Charles Simic, and James Wright.

Geographical Locale: More rural than the Beats, deep imagists were mainly located in the Upper Midwest.

Years of Prominence: 1970's, fueled by social protests against the Vietnam War and the Watergate Crisis.

For Further Study:

http://www.english.illinois.edu/Maps/poets/a_f/bly/bushell.html

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/robert-bly>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/144469/james-wright-101>

http://www.robertbly.com/b_anthologies.html

<http://www.achievement.org/achiever/louise-gluck/>