



PHOTO: ANDREAS JOHNSEN

/ Torben Ulrich

Boldens Øjne, Værens Ben

Eyes of the Ball, Bones of Being consists of a long essay (in Danish) and a parallel track of ‘songline’ poems (in English). In this book, and for the first time, Denmark’s sporting philosopher superstar, Torben Ulrich, offers a broad, yet still polyphonic, take on the various subjects which have occupied him for most of his life; these being in the main physical activities and comprehensive philosophical studies.

The ‘songlines’, as well as his philosophical-cum-poetical reflections, represent a new way of thinking across a range of disciplines. The book is written with inspiring passion, but at the same time has a broad leavening of humor and expansive ruminations. These encourage the reader to delve deeper into Torben Ulrich’s world and sound the many layers within his texts, in which key existential questions and the wondrous nature of our lives are examined along with highly relevant political concerns – all staged in a sort of *ultra-cosmopolis*. *Eyes of the Ball, Bones of Being* considers the perspectives that might help us achieve a break with the fixation on the ‘topline’ and final score and the dualism of winners and losers - not least the multitude of possibilities that would then come into play: “*When the ball comes ...*” This highly original book represents a non-dualistic approach to ballplaying and athletics as symbols of living and dying.

TORBEN ULRICH (b. 1928). Athlete, writer, jazz critic, artist, musician, filmmaker. For many years a top ranking tennis player. In more recent times, he has been working in a variety of artistic fields that touch on life and athletics. He has created original rice paper paintings. He has published two volumes of so-called songlines, *Terninger, tonefald* (Dice, Intonations) in 2005 and *Stilhedens cymbaler* (Cymbals of Silence) in 2007 and has also been engaged in a series of music projects and film projects – just lately with the film *Leaping, Looping: Before the Call* (2018).



NON-FICTION

Torben Ulrich / Boldens Øjne, Værens Ben (Eyes of the Ball, Bones of Being)

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Monica C. Gram:
monica@cphla.dk



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A minor masterpiece... When Ulrich writes and talks about tennis, he also talks about eastern Buddhism and western philosophy, economy and ecology, art and cosmology, ethics and politics

Politiken

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DANISH ARTS FOUNDATION

The Danish Arts Foundation works to promote Danish art and artistic creativity, both in Denmark and abroad. The Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces is the administrative arm of the Danish Arts Foundation.



CONTACT

Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces / Literature
H.C. Andersens Boulevard 2,
1553 Copenhagen V, Denmark
Tel. +45 3373 3373
litt@slks.dk
www.danisharts.dk