

## KK KOZIK

*Czech*, 2015  
Oil on Linen, 48 x 57 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

## ZACK ROGOW

# Europe in the Nineteenth Century: A Stereopticon

Wrecked on opium, Thomas De Quincey  
sees Coleridge's foot as a goldfish  
in an aquarium missing its walls.

The young Alfred de Musset is touching  
George Sand's left nipple  
with a sable watercolor brush  
dipped in crème de menthe.  
"Tu m'aimes?" he asks her.  
"Et toi?" She turns her head  
and blows cigar smoke in the face  
of the Paris dawn.

Beethoven is having a bad hair day.

Darwin, bent over his bird's-eye maple escritoire,  
collaborates with a dead mackerel  
to prove that God left no forwarding address.

As he inhales a blur of lavender  
by the moon bridge,  
the aging Claude Monet paints so furiously  
he erases the garden he loves.

Meanwhile Bismarck  
ascends  
to the base camp of the Schneefernerkopf,  
so he can survey  
from the blue jewel of the glacier  
all the placid little duchies  
waiting for his strong arm.

Under the pontifical dome  
of the British Museum Library  
Karl Marx claps shut a frayed ledger  
scored with statistics  
on English textile production,  
realizing he has just found the key  
that unlocks all history, all thought.  
A tiny map of ink  
has formed on the side of his hand,  
blood red.

**Zack Rogow** is the author, editor, or translator of twenty books or plays. His eighth book of poems, *Talking with the Radio: poems inspired by jazz and popular music*, was published in 2015 by Kattywompus Press. He edited an anthology of U.S. poetry, *The Face of Poetry*, published by University of California Press, as well as issues of the world literature journal *Two Lines*. In 2015, he received the Celestine Award in Poetry from Holy Names University. His translations include *Earthlight* by André Breton, poems by Rainer Maria Rilke, and collaborations with native speakers to translate Urdu and Romanian poetry.