

Hirato Renkichi Translated by Sho Sugita *Spiral Staircase: Collected Poems*

Hirato Renkichi produced a unique brand of Futurism from the late 1910s and early 1920s through poetry, criticism, and guerrilla performance. Contributing to the earliest productions of Japanese avant-garde poetry, his aggressive experimentation with speed, spatialization, and performability would later influence what became a lively community of Dadaist and Surrealist writers in pre-war Japan. *Spiral Staircase* is the first definitive volume of Renkichi's poems to appear in English. With an introduction by Sho Sugita and an afterword by Eric Selland.



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Translator Sho Sugita's ingenious handling ... brings into sharp focus a momentous, of-the-moment figure little known in the English-speaking world.

— DAVID GRUBBS

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Hirato Renkichi's devotion to poetry puts him in the company of Rimbaud and Mayakovsky.

— LISA JARNOT

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Hirato Renkichi, born Kawahata Sheiichi on December 9th 1893 in Osaka, started writing poetry in 1912, first publishing in *Banso* under the guidance of Kawaji Ryuko. He passed away on July 20, 1922 in Tokyo, at the age of 29.

Sho Sugita lives in Matsumoto, Japan. His recent poems and translations have appeared or are forthcoming in *VOLT*, *Poems by Sunday*, *Chicago Review*, *6x6*, *Lana Turner*, *Paperbag*, *A Perimeter*, and *Asymptote*.

Media contact: Daniel Owen • daniel@uglyducklingpresse.org

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