

## Carlos Oquendo de Amat *5 Meters of Poems*

Poetry Full-length | ISBN 978-1-933254-59-3  
\$25 | Accordion-fold | Spanish-English Bilingual Edition  
Translated by: Joshua Beckman and Alejandro de Acosta  
Release Date: February 2010

Carlos Oquendo de Amat's *5 Meters of Poems* was written in the period between 1923 to 1925 and published in a very small edition in December 1927. Oquendo de Amat died at the age of 32 shortly after the publication. His only book of poems, it bears the stamp of the influence of European avant gardes, and Futurism in particular. At the same time, it is clearly a cornerstone for what would later become Concrete Poetry. UDP's new version of *5 Meters of Poems* recreates the peculiar physical format of the book, and it is the first edition of this historic poem to be made widely available in the United States.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Carlos Oquendo de Amat** was part of an extensive and urgent vanguardist poetry world in Lima, Peru, in the second two decades of the 20th century. Upon the death of his father in 1918, the teenage Oquendo de Amat and his mother moved from provincial genteel comfort to Lima where they lived in poverty. After being imprisoned a number of times, during various crackdowns on dissent, he emphatically embraced Marxism and renounced poetry. During one of his stints in prison he contracted tuberculosis, which worsened rapidly during subsequent prison terms and was the cause of his death at age 32.

### ABOUT THE TRANSLATORS

**Joshua Beckman** is the author of five books of poetry, including *Things Are Happening*, which was the APR Honickman First Book Prize. His work has appeared in many magazines and anthologies including *Harper's*, *The Pushcart Prize*, and *Best American Poetry*. He has translated numerous books of poetry, including *Poker* (Ugly Duckling Presse), which was a finalist for the PEN America Poetry in Translation Award. He presently works as an editor for WAVE Books and splits his time between Seattle and New York.

**Alejandro de Acosta** writes on anarchist philosophy and aesthetics. Since moving to Austin, Texas seven years ago, he has launched the micropress *mufa::poema*, publishing and freely distributing eight booklets of poetry and philosophy. He is currently composing a book of fifteen "amoral" essays inspired by Montaigne and Hume.

from *5 Meters of Poems*:

Rain

Rain

Is the calling card  
of  
God

Some mother's telephone

And in the mud  
the rain has made two clear paths  
Like two naïve arms  
that ask for  
SOMETHING

### ABOUT UGLY DUCKLING PRESSE

Ugly Duckling Presse is a nonprofit art and publishing collective producing small to mid-size editions of new poetry, translations, lost works and artist books. For more about UDP, visit [www.uglyducklingpresse.org](http://www.uglyducklingpresse.org).

### ABOUT THE LOST LITERATURE SERIES

The Lost Literature Series is dedicated to publishing neglected works of 20th century poetry, prose, and important & resonant works that fall outside those confines.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Matvei Yankelevich • [matvei@uglyducklingpresse.org](mailto:matvei@uglyducklingpresse.org)