Sawako Nakayasu
Say Translation Is Art

In this pamphlet, poet and translator Sawako Nakayasu writes a treatise on literary translation that exceeds the conventional defining boundaries of such, advocating for a wider embrace of translation as both action and art. In the ever-expansive margins of dominant literary culture, translation links up with performance, repetition, failure, process, collaboration, feminism, polyphony, conversation, deviance, punk, and improvisation.

“Nakayasu uses words to construct a space, often an intimate one between the writer and reader, the lover and the beloved, friends. She is a masterful writer and translator whose work I consider indispensable.

—John Yau, Hyperallergic

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Saddle-stitched pamphlet
Essay, Translation Studies | $12
5” x 8” | 24 pp.
ISBN 978-1-946433-55-8
2020 Pamphlet Series

Distributed by:
Small Press Distribution
Inpress Books (UK)

Release Date: December 15, 2020

Sawako Nakayasu is an artist working with language, performance, and translation—separately and in various combinations. She translates from Japanese and is co-editor of A Transpacific Poetics (Litmus Press) as well as a forthcoming anthology of 20th Century Japanese Poetry with New Directions. Her books include the translation of Tatsum Hijikata’s Costume en Face: A Primer of Darkness for Young Boys and Girls (UDP, 2015) and Mouth: Eats Color - Sagawa Chika Translations, Anti-translations, & Originals (Rogue Factorial), a multilingual work of both original and translated poetry.