

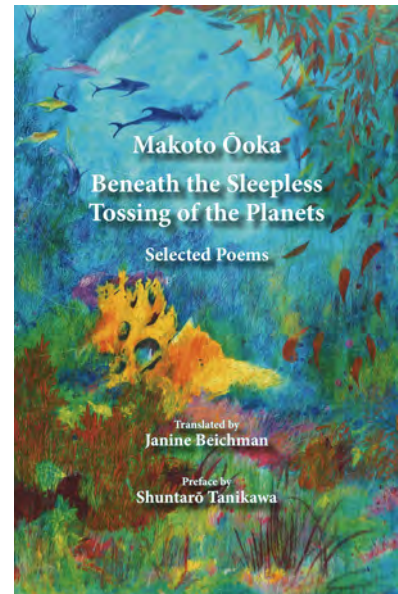


Kurodahan Press would like to present for your review:

Makoto Ōoka

Beneath the Sleepless Tossing of the Planets

Translated by Janine Beichman
ISBN: 978-4-902075-95-3
Pages: xviii + 173
Softcover, 5.5" x 8.5" (140mm x 216mm)
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One of the most important poets of contemporary Japan, Makoto Ōoka's works continue to resonate powerfully among readers today. He speaks to the spirit, not of Japan and the Japanese, but of humanity, and of the world we are a part of.

This new edition brings together some of his best work in English translation by Janine Beichman, who worked with Ōoka for many years. Also included are the original Japanese poems, the author's own calligraphy and drafts, and selected photographs from his personal life.

Here is a treasure to be savored for a depth and beauty that surpasses any single cultural identity.

Through the richness of Ooka's work we find once again the
abundance of our spiritual and natural heritage

—Shuntarō Tanikawa

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A copy of your review to the below address would be greatly appreciated.



Reviews

“...one of Japan’s most celebrated artists and intellectuals”
— *The New York Times*

“Ōoka Makoto is a distinguished poet... [and] a major critic of poetry, perhaps the finest in Japan”
— Donald Keene

“How young and fresh these poems of Ōoka are! Full of joy and excitement, they fuse the ancient tradition of Japanese poetry with the modernism and surrealism of the West. Through Beichman’s translucent translations, polished over 25 years, they are now given a new life for all of us to share on this sleepless and tossing planet.”
— Yasuhiro Yotsumoto, poet, Hagiwara Sakutarō Award

“The kinship of voice and temperament between poet and translator gives outstanding value to these translations. Spanning most of Ōoka Makoto’s career, they illumine the richness of his oeuvre. Ōoka’s spirit is vividly alive here. Coming so close to this poet’s very essence is an overwhelming experience.”
— Masaya Saito, poet, author of *Snow Bones*, Asahi Haiku Shinjin Award for haiku sequence “Gasshō” (Hands Together in Prayer)

“Many of Ōoka Makoto’s poems are short and condensed; while they come across as philosophical, surrealistic, and nonchalant at the same time, in many cases they also straightforwardly describe a reality. They exist in the space between classical *tanka* and *haiku* poetry and modernist poetry of the Imagists. Janine Beichman, who is a poet and scholar of Japanese literature, delves deeply into the inner world of the poet and his works. Her translation brings out the profound insight hidden in the poems, casting a brilliant light on the skills the poet consciously develops to create his unique texts.”
— Noriko Mizuta, poet, Cikada Prize in Poetry, Director of International Institute for Media and Women’s Studies

“Ōoka Makoto was a distinguished critic of Japanese poetry and a superb poet himself. He drew on both the centuries-old traditions of the Japanese waka and twentieth-century Western poetry, from surrealism to high modernism. In this collection, he is well served once again by the highly skillful translations of Dr. Janine Beichman, who worked with him closely during his lifetime. Dr. Beichman’s English versions are faithful to the originals and at the same time creative in finding new means of expressing the spirit of the poems. It has been said that “It takes a poet to translate poetry,” and this splendid collection is evidence of that.”
— Paul McCarthy, Professor Emeritus, Surugadai University, Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature

“This poet knows, in the deepest sense, that human ties rest on the relationship that human beings feel to nature and the universe.”
— Tanikawa Shuntarō, Preface



The contributors

Makoto Ōoka (1931–2017) was the premier poet and critic of his generation in Japan. Born in Mishima, a small city near Mt. Fuji, Ōoka began writing poetry in his teens. By the time he was twenty-five, his first books—one of poems and one of criticism—established him as a spokesman for contemporary poets. He often visited Europe, Asia, and the United States, lecturing and giving readings at



the Collège de France, Harvard, Columbia, and Princeton Universities, as well as many literary festivals. His pioneering experiments with renga or linked verse, a traditional form of collaborative poetry, brought him into contact with poets around the world. President of Japan P.E.N. Club from 1989 to 1993, he was also a prolific translator who helped introduce to Japan modern poets such as Paul Éluard, André Breton, and John Ashbery. For almost three decades, Ōoka's daily column "Poems for All Seasons" ran on the front page of the *Asahi* newspaper, and through it poetry entered the daily lives of millions of readers in Japan.

Ōoka's works have also been translated into Chinese, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Korean, Macedonian, and Spanish.

Janine Beichman (PhD, Columbia University) is author of biographies of the poets Masaoka Shiki and Yosano Akiko, and translator of Ōoka Makoto's *Poems for All Seasons/Oriori no Uta: An Anthology of Japanese Poetry from Earliest Times to the Present*. Her Noh play *Drifting Fires* was translated into Japanese by Ōoka Makoto. She is a judge for the JLPP Translation Competition of the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan and is a recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the PEN America/Heim Translation Fund.



Kurodahan Press: Great Literature from Other Lands

In mid-2002, a group of language professionals living in Japan began to discuss the need for a new kind of publisher—one that could serve readers in English and Japanese, with titles meant for both general and specialist markets. Reflecting the skills and interests of its founding directors, Kurodahan Press will first offer books relating to Japan. In the near future, we plan to expand the range of our titles to include all of East Asia, as well as South and Southeast Asia.



Our line-up includes new translations and reprints of classic texts, in affordable editions available to readers and scholars around the world. Our books are printed at sites in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Japan. Kurodahan Press uses a combination of print on demand (POD) and conventional printing technology, and markets titles through multiple sales channels, with worldwide distribution.

Kurodahan Press is active in both general and specialist publishing. Our books are of interest to scholars and students, and to readers in general. Our goal as a specialist publisher is to preserve and circulate contemporary and historical observations of Asia. Our goal as a general publisher is to produce informative and entertaining translations. In all our activities, we aim to encourage creative thinking about Asia—both in Asia and elsewhere in the world.

The main editorial offices and legal headquarters of the Press are located in Kumamoto, Japan.

