

left one sprinkler on one Earth left

Like *earthshine, downhill home* is a must-read because it shows the breadth of what ELH can be.

Reviewed by Joshua Gage

Applause for a Cloud by Sayumi Kamakura, trans. James Shea (Black Ocean, 2025). 304 pages, 5.5" x 7.4". Perfect softbound. ISBN 978-1-939568-99-1. \$25.00 from blackocean.org and other booksellers.

Sayumi Kamakura is the author of numerous poetry collections, including *Moisture*, *Cross in the Water*, *From the Skylight*, *La La La Goes the Sea*, and *The Collected Haiku of Sayumi Kamakura*. Her work has appeared in dozens of anthologies in Japan and overseas, and she is the only haiku poet featured in *Japanese Women Poets: An Anthology* edited by Hiroaki Sato. She is the recipient of the Oki Sango Prize, Modern Haiku Association Prize, and the Azsacra International Poetry Award.

With the help of James Shea, Sayumi Kamakura has released a collection of her haiku translated into English, her first in almost twenty years. This is a remarkable, dual language collection, presenting the haiku in both Japanese and English. As Kamakura is such a vital but under-translated voice to contemporary Japanese haiku this collection reads as both a collection of her work but also an introduction to most English-language haiku readers.

The depth and breadth of this collection is impressive, and Kamakura and Shea have carefully curated some excellent selections showcasing her modern style and surreal imagery:

Passing through
the hole of a donut,
summer continues

The river bottom
hugs the water
into February

Such a strong smell
of Summer grass—
the grass has forgotten itself

This is an exceptional collection in English of a modern Japanese master. Sayumi Kamakura is a profoundly influential voice in modern Japanese haiku, but underread and understudied in English, mostly due to a lack of accessible translations. With James Shea, she has released a gorgeous, bilingual collection of haiku that displays her range and skill with over seven hundred poems. Any reader interested in what is happening in contemporary Japanese haiku will want to get their hands on this immediately.