



Crossing Centuries

A bilingual reading with two of Japan's most important writers: Mutsuo Takahashi & Hiromi Itō

Sept. 10, 2013 (Tuesday), 6-8 p.m.

3025 Brown Hall

Join two of Japan's most important and dynamic writers for a reading and discussion of the ways that Japanese tradition still informs their life, ideas, and art



Mutsuo Takahashi (b. 1937) stunned the poetry world in the 1960s with his bold evocations of homoerotic desire. Since then, he has published more than three dozen collections of verse and countless books of essays, earning a place as Japan's most important gay writer. In addition to poetry, he has written novels, plays, haiku, tanka, countless essays, and even an opera libretto. Five volumes of his work are available in English, including *Poems of a Penisist*, which became a favorite work of Allen Ginsberg, and the memoir *Twelve Views from the Distance*, much admired by novelist Yukio Mishima. Takahashi currently lives in Zushi, Japan.

Hiromi Itō (b. 1955) made a sensational debut in the 1980s writing about sexual desire, pregnancy, and abortion with a directness that shocked some and made her a feminist hero to others. Since then, she has become a prominent fixture in the literary world, writing with unfailing originality about women's issues and experiences. She has lived in California since 1997 and written several prize-winning works about her experience as a transnational migrant. Her English translations include *Killing Kanoko*, which was on the SPD Poetry Bestseller list for over one year. She lives outside San Diego.

Jeffrey Angles (b. 1971) teaches Japanese literature at WMU. He has published translations of both Takahashi and Itō's work, and he will provide interpretation for this event.

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