

FOREREST GANDER  
TRANSLATION BY ERI NAKAGAWA AND MATTHEW CHOZICK  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNA LEE CAMPBELL

# collaboration in translation



## BREATH

Early draft of the world. Or  
has all that came before  
made them  
its repository? Grove of slash.  
They are. Flowerless dirt.  
Windmoan over  
leafy mound strewn  
with two human forms,  
veined and branched. To  
become what one was: that  
never happens. But now the  
ground wrinkles with  
their languorous  
pandiculation. Crescent  
shoulder blade and blue  
bays between expanding,  
contracting ribs. That the  
recognizable mammalian  
familiarity recedes in  
exposures, in dilated time.  
Become one, inhuman, beyond  
animal. Are they.

## 息

世界の初期草案.あるいは  
それまでのすべてが  
彼等を作り  
自らの貯蔵庫に?切り屑の木立.  
彼等は.花無しの土.  
嘆きの風が吹き  
葉の山を散らす  
二つの人がたは  
脈打ち枝分かれする.かつての  
姿に戻るために:それは  
決して起こらない.だが今  
地面に皺が寄る  
彼等の気だるい  
伸びに合わせて.三日月形の  
肩甲骨と蒼い  
入江がいくつも見える  
拡張,収縮する肋間.それは  
見慣れた哺乳類の  
親近性が失われていく  
露出の膨張する時間.  
一つになる,人を脱し,動物を  
超えて.そう,彼等は.

This iteration of In Translation takes an unorthodox approach, focusing on collaboration between colleagues in art and the strata of translation which can exist within a single work. Eiko & Koma are Japanese-born choreographer/dancers who trained with Kazuo Ohno (pictured in Bruce Osbourne's Oyako series p.xx, and featured in "A Child of All Time: Butoh Dancer Kazuo Ohno at 98" in KJ 58) as well as in Europe, and have been performing publicly since the 1970s. Their work, visceral and humanistic, inspired the 2013 collection of poems *Eiko & Koma* by poet Forrest Gander. Now these poems

appear in a bilingual edition translated by Eri Nakagawa and Matthew Chozick alongside photos of Eiko & Koma by Anna Lee Campbell.

As Chozick states, "the poems hinge on Gander's ability to translate Eiko & Koma's physical idiom into language...This literary feat pushes up against the limits of language while expanding its horizons." Finding Japanese equivalents to Gander's translated idioms is another challenge. These poems build layers of meaning which can interact on their own terms and help bring the reader into the collaboration.

## INTERVIEW (FRAGMENTS)

Sees

what I'm  
doing says  
No not  
that would  
look better  
like this

Pretty  
good with  
my hands I can  
do this  
(demonstrating)  
or this but  
the source is  
body-core and  
a hand held  
out (demonstrating)  
is always  
greedy-  
ness I prefer  
this (spinning  
hand inward)  
I moved  
my arm that  
way (extending it)  
until I realized  
I can move it  
instead from  
here (dis-  
articulating her  
shoulder)

I ruined it  
she says (in English)



An award-winning American writer, translator, and editor, **FORREST GANDER** is a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Critics Circle Award finalist who has translated Pablo Neruda and many Latin American writers, and co-translated Kiwao Nomura and Gozo Yoshimasu. Gander, who taught at Harvard and then Brown University, lives near San Francisco, California.

A translator and researcher, **ERI NAKAGAWA** currently teaches at the University of Tokyo where she is also a PhD candidate specializing in Translation Studies. She was raised in Tokyo and has lived in California.

## インタビュー（断片）

視線を  
私の動きに  
向けて 曰く  
違う それじゃ  
こんな風に  
うまく  
見えない

わりと  
手が  
器用でわたし  
こんなこともできるし  
(やってみせる)  
こんなことも だけど  
その源は  
体の芯 それから  
片手を突き  
出して (やってみせる)  
いつも  
食欲  
さ わたしはこっちの方が  
好き (くるくると  
手を内側に回転)  
自分の腕を  
あんな具合に  
動かしていた (腕を伸ばす)  
そしてあるとき気がついた  
かわりに  
ここから  
動かせるって (関  
節がはずれる彼女の  
肩)

もう台無し  
**I ruined it**  
彼女が言う (英語で)

An author and translator, **MATTHEW CHOZICK** also teaches at Temple University Japan Campus and is the director of Awai Books. He was born in the United States, but resides in Tokyo.

Awai Books support authors of inventive, playful—and to some, heretical—literature that examines Japanese culture in a transnational context. Most recently Awai Books has released *Art, Cult and Commerce: Japanese Cinema Since 2000* by Mark Schilling. Although a small independent press, Awai Books' authors have won and been nominated for numerous major literary prizes.

