**Stereoscopic Examples of ‘Lyric Translation’**

Translators often work with assumptions that prioritize content over style. This approach is well-suited to original texts that are primarily narrative prose, or reported speech (dialogue), but falls short of the mark if the text contains lyrical passages that exhibit shifting perspectives, layers of deeper meaning, or literary allusions. In order to remedy this shortfall I propose a modified approach to translating lyrical prose that involves the translator preparing two translations, the first following standard content-focused assumptions and the second, executed as something of an adaptation, emphasizing the lyrical mode. The final, published, translation would be a hybrid of the two that would benefit from the advantages of both. Below I demonstrate this approach using short passages by Walser and Kajii that share a common theme: an insight gleaned from taking a stroll.

### Correspondent translation:

“Shortly after I first discovered the mountain track I found myself, filled with a kind of pensive anticipation, choosing this path over and over again, just to enjoy its tranquility. My destination was a spot where I could hear a small water pipeline made of bamboo trunks ran down from the shadowy interior. If I listened carefully I could hear a quiet murmur within. How I longed, if he should have the interest to follow my description, which now takes the liberty to continue following my description, which now takes the liberty to continue following my description, which now takes the liberty to continue following my description, which now -

Lyrical translation:

“Shortly after I first discovered the mountain trail I found myself, filled with a kind of pensive anticipation, choosing this path over and over again, just to enjoy its tranquility. My destination was a spot where I could hear a small water pipeline made of bamboo trunks ran down from the shadowy interior. If I listened carefully I could hear a quiet murmur within. How I longed, if he should have the interest to follow my description, which now takes the liberty to continue following my description, which now -

### Kajii Motojirō (1901-1932)

Kajii Motojirō was a promising young writer, admired by contemporaries, whose life was cut short by TB just as Japan entered into the militarism leading up to WWII. Well versed in Western and Japanese literature, he wrote evocative short fiction and is best known for his profound, lyrical novella Lemon.

### Robert Walser (1878-1956)

Robert Walser emerged as a force de la siècle writer of note widely admired by the likes of Kafka, Hesse, Musil and Zweig. Mental illness haunted him throughout his life, however, and he spent the final three decades in an asylum. He wrote several novels and a large body of short lyrical fiction.