

A Variety of *Nekomachi*



“Indeed there is no metaphysical problem more mysterious than the notion that a given phenomenon can possess a ‘secret, hidden side.’ When I was a boy a long time ago, and I used to examine a framed picture that hung on the walls of the house, I wondered all the while what worlds lay hidden on the reverse side of the framed landscape. I removed the frame repeatedly to peep at the back side of the painting. Those childhood thoughts have now turned into a riddle that remains impossible for me to solve even as an adult.” (*Cat Town / Nekomachi*)

Nekomachi is one of the few novels written by the poet Sakutaro, and after being revived with beautiful binding, is still being read today. At the Setagaya Literary Museum, this novel is introduced by a mechanical *karakuri* puppet box. As the puppet spins around the geometric cityscape within the box, it begins to tell the story of an encounter with another world. Please take a look at this other *Nekomachi*, which weaves together light, sound, and words.



Muttoni, *Nekomachi*. 1994. Original work: Sakutaro Hagiwara, *Nekomachi*.
“Muttoni” is the pseudonym for Masahiko Muto, a mechanical *karakuri* puppet artist.