

The Joy of Flying Paper Airplanes

after a manual by Tatsuo Yoshida

Tatsuo glides an ice pick through his pleats.
His craft is taut, her fuselage is hollow.
He apes the shape of gallivanting swallows
which dart across his garden, light and fleet,
by crafting wings that point and tails that fork,
by angling his paper ailerons.
He lets his swallow sail across the lawn,
then gathers her. This aircraft yearns to torque
left. Perhaps this plane is meant for stunts
instead of the smooth glide that he had planned.
Tatsuo finds a thicker rubber band
and works to give his swallow what she wants.
He tweaks the camber, balances the wings,
then blows her nose. The paper airplane sings.