Abstract: This paper discusses the production of Sung Rno’s play *Yi Sang Counts to Thirteen*, which was produced in Korea in 1998. The play takes place in “Seoul as reflected through a certain Mr. Yi Sang’s strange and twisted brain,” as described by the playwright. The Korean surrealist poet Yi Sang died in 1937 at the age of twenty-seven during the height of Japanese colonial rule in Korea. He is considered a poet genius who has received unprecedented posthumous recognition. He is a mythic character in the Korean literary society. Sung Rno presents a surrealistic play inspired by translations of Yi Sang’s poems that blur literary genres and defy structural rules. The paper examines the production in the context of Korean avant-garde theatre and experimental art.

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