

The Mainichi



Annual Selection 2016

Judge's comments: Have Unity with Nature Where Haiku Exists

Selections and comments by Isamu Hashimoto

Being so weak and fragile, human beings, of course including myself, often depend on religious super-beings. We already know, from experience, haiku enables us to simplify our mental complex. Finding "newness" in mother nature provides great relief from agony. That process is proved in our haiku making. So please, achieve unity with nature where haiku exists. The following is from the great American writer Henry Miller (1891-1980): "We invent nothing, truly. We borrow and re-create. We uncover and discover. All has been given, as the mystics say. We have only to open our eyes and hearts, to become one with that which is."

The following haiku selected in the year of 2016 are arranged by author in order of their first haiku appearance, along with the dates of publication. My short comments follow. Thanks to readers for your submissions in 2016. We await your next haiku.

Pravat Kumar Padhy (Gujarat, India)

| | |
|---|---|
| ganjitsu (new year's day)— I wish to greet all with a haiku | desert marathon— for a moment I look back my footprints |
| Jan. 1, 2016 Comment: It's a New Year greeting. "With a haiku" is the key for world peace. | Nov. 7, 2016 Comment: The last line is very impressive. |

Vasile Moldovan (Bucharest, Romania)

| | |
|---|---|
| night of New Year churches, mosques, temples, synagogues under the same fireworks | At the nightfall the hunter's knapsack stuffed with tales |
| Jan. 2, 2016 Comment: Haiku knows the best way to achieve world peace. | March 15, 2016 |

| | |
|--|---|
| the old hour glass ... sand shadow running on the white wall | up and down here and there a wandering dragonfly |
| April 12, 2016 Comment: An excellent "shibui" (subdued) composition of color. | Oct. 3, 2016 Comment: My version of the final line: "a dragonfly." "Wandering" is redundant. |

Marie Jeanne Sakhinis-de Meis (Avignon, France)

| | |
|--|--|
| the sound of leaves the sound of waves soon the silence | overgrown garden virtual beings pokemon go |
| Jan. 4, 2016 Comment: Six "s" sounds will make the world seem quiet and peaceful. | Oct. 8, 2016 |

| |
|---|
| Rain finally the reflection of a small puddle |
| Dec. 3, 2016 |

C Ronald Kimberling (South Elgin, IL, USA)

| | |
|--|--|
| Tall crane looms above small crane | Pigeons make way for human feet Always |
| Jan. 5, 2016 | Feb. 27, 2016 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Dead bird thought skyscraper glass was its doppelganger | Just a dub of red on the breast female cardinal |
| June 14, 2016 | July 9, 2016 |

| |
|--|
| Homeless man with the big smile More people stop |
| Nov. 4, 2016 |

General comment: The author's "haikuic" sense grasping the various scenes is irresistible.

Yashowanto Ghosh (Grand Rapids, MI, USA)

| | |
|---|--|
| the night bus stops at a corner full of shadows | the shattered mirror very well reflect all absence |
| Jan. 6, 2016 | Feb. 5, 2016 |

| | |
|---|--|
| sunrise: the house suddenly full of windows | in dense fog maybe an animal maybe not |
| March 19, 2016 | April 26, 2016 |

| | |
|--|--|
| line of ants crossing diagram in geometry book | the strobe lights mirrored in sweat on the dancer's back |
| May 31, 2016 | July 29, 2016 |

| | |
|--|---|
| a white horse bucks mid-canter in the summer sky | Afternoon sun in the windows of closed bars |
| Aug. 25, 2016 | Sept. 6, 2016 |

| |
|---|
| power cut at night: I see the half moon |
| Nov. 5, 2016 |

General comment: Full of "haikuic" insight: the author will not make any haiku below average.
The next stage will be finding drastic "newness."

Don Hansbrough (Seattle, WA, USA)

| | |
|---|--|
| last gold leaf chooses to fall on my hand | within halo of moonlight my old cat dreams |
| Jan. 7, 2016 | Feb. 4, 2016 |

| |
|--|
| Milky Way trembling mandala of poets |
| June 30, 2016 |

General comment: Mixing non-human elements with humans is the author's way of making haiku. 1: leaf/hand 2: moonlight/cat 3: Milky Way/poets. Some helpful words from Robert Spiess (1921-2002) — "Letter to Isamu Hashimoto," 2000: "As human beings, we arose from and remain a part of nature. A kigo helps us to feel our kinship with all creation, and that other life and 'non-life' have the right to exist."

Devin Harrison (Duncan, Canada)

| |
|---|
| all he remembers is the crying of loons his minimalist life |
| Jan. 8, 2016 Comment: "He" might be the author himself and ... myself. |

Michael Henry Lee (St. Augustine, FL, USA)

| | |
|--|---|
| oh holy night— the busker's sax is shining | sickle moon rightly dividing the clouds |
| Jan. 9, 2016 | July 19, 2016 |

General comment: "Shining" and "rightly" are "haikuic" catches.

Brendon Kent (Botley, Southampton, UK)

| |
|---|
| toy soldiers— the grandkids playing refugees |
| Jan. 11, 2016 Comment: The final word is a haiku "umami" (merit). |

Ramona Linke (Beesenstedt, Germany)

| | |
|--|---|
| mixed chorus the afterglow floods the nave | menhir's shadow across the snowy field I listen to the moon |
| Jan. 12, 2016 | Feb. 26, 2016 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| thaw the old monk yawns | after the vernissage she rolls a cigarette between two fingers |
| March 1, 2016 | April 16, 2016 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Berlin trip— blooming cherry trees along the Wall Trail | road's end on each side of the barbed wire humans |
| May 4, 2016 | June 8, 2016 |

| | |
|---|--|
| smell of pipe smoke— the old skipper waits for the moon | stubble fields a buzzard rushes into its cry |
| Nov. 8, 2016 | Dec. 6, 2016 |

General comment: The author has the knack to make a good haiku. Her composition techniques are all above average, but I think the author can surely reach another height of haiku. One suggestion: Try simple depiction without any self-interpretation or explanation.

Wieslaw Karlinski (Namyslow, Poland)

| | |
|--|--|
| empty church in the light of a candle angels' procession | old synagogue in the light of menorah muffled whispers |
| Jan. 13, 2016 | March 14, 2016 |

| |
|--|
| convalescence— in the family album blood donor's photo |
| April 23, 2016 |

General comment: A sincere side of the author seems emerge. A pious haijin with three good pieces.

Simone K. Busch (Tokyo, Japan)

stars shine
in the paddy an illusion
of peace

Jan. 14, 2016

Comment: A muddy "paddy" in the floating world.

Ian Willey (Takamatsu, Japan)

laundry left hanging for days
a black kite
circling

Jan. 15, 2016

cherry blossoms
an expectant mother
waits for the flash

May 3, 2016

Peace Park at dusk
the strobe light motion
of the bats

Aug. 10, 2016

Comment: The last two lines are so fresh. I think it's much better to find an alternative phrase for the first line.

Semih Ozmeric (Istanbul, Turkey)

pitch black sky
counting down to the first full moon
of my cat

Jan. 16, 2016

first day of spring
trees
don't care

May 26, 2016

| | |
|--|---|
| behind the dark clouds the sun, deprived of a shine, seems like a fake god | a duck floats unaware of trace behind |
| Aug. 1, 2016 | Nov. 22, 2016 |

General comment: How about trying to abstain from self-explanation? Just depict things plainly. Then "newness" will follow.

Lothar M. Kirsch (Meerbusch, Germany)

| | |
|--|--|
| Warm Indian summer The moon and I drinking And my shadow | Passing the hotel With the gay coloured toucan Three wild geese high up |
| Jan. 18, 2016 | June 6, 2016 Comment: A very rare scene: You could perhaps find a better-situated word for "hotel." |

cezar ciobica (Botosani, Romania)

| | |
|--|---|
| fog and so on... | Summer's end even the moon has freckles |
| Jan. 19, 2016 Comment: A thin-fogged two-liner with a jab: "and so on." | Oct. 13, 2016 Comment: Good humor. |

Ana Drobot (Bucharest, Romania)

| | |
|---|--|
| new moon— I try to draw the smile of the Cheshire cat | season change... instead of sea shells empty Coca Cola bottles |
| Jan. 20, 2016 | April 15, 2016 |

| |
|--|
| butterfly... I once had Everything |
| Aug. 31, 2016 Comment: I sympathize with the author for some reason. Butterfly" is a very good choice of word. The small letter of the first word is the result of her deep thinking. |

Mohammad Azim Khan (Peshawar, Pakistan)

| | |
|--|--|
| dry lake... washing my hands in sand | elephant safari... I touch the leaf of an unknown tree |
| Jan. 21, 2016 | March 31, 2016 |

| |
|---|
| blue moon... the recluse appears on the balcony |
| July 5, 2016 |

General comment: Excellent haiku pieces. The author has great talent for making haiku.

Brent Goodman (Rhinelander, WI, USA)

barely touching
beneath the banyan tree
earth and sky

Jan. 22, 2016

Comment: The banyan is the sacred tree of the Hindu religion and the sky belongs to God.

Marie-Louise Montignot (Saulxures, France)

Orion Nebula
Friday the 13th exists
November 2015

Jan. 23, 2016

Comment: Thanks for the information.

Sheila Barksdale (Gainesville, FL, USA / Gotherington, England)

Peace Lilies:
florist's handwritten 'care label'
seems simple enough

moonlit race-track:
the soundless battle of
ten thousand hoof-cuts

Jan. 25, 2016

Comment: Simplicity is the best technique in the genre of haiku. God makes the world simple; human beings ... complex.

July 15, 2016

rolls of thunder spreading mauve hyacinth blooms

April 27, 2016

Comment: A successful solid one-liner.

Helen Buckingham (Wells, Somerset, UK)

| | |
|--|--|
| underground train the city breathing down my neck | hazy moon a bluebottle fly grips the glass |
| Jan. 26, 2016 Comment: I esteem this one best and the last line is superb. | June 17, 2016 |

| | |
|--|--|
| stretch limo night spangled with stars | an owl hoots her storybook comes to life |
| Aug. 6, 2016 | Sept. 13, 2016 |

| | |
|---|--|
| sleep loss: the stars begin to signal | I forgive myself for missing that bus... jasmine pearl tea |
| Oct. 28, 2016 | Nov. 28, 2016 |

Ken Sawitri (Central Java, Indonesia)

| | |
|--|--|
| Koan practice I translate my calligraphic self | traffic jam a sudden sneeze moves the moon |
| Jan. 27, 2016 | Feb. 9, 2016 |

| | |
|--|---|
| spring breeze an unknown tree shoots in the war zone | wrong GPS on the peak of the empty road we reach the moon |
| March 21, 2016 | April 29, 2016 Comment: "GPS" is fantastic and "empty" in the second line is a necessary choice of word. |

| | |
|--|---|
| late for work the odious caterpillars on my eyebrows | rain all day watching the tv news soundlessly |
| May 13, 2016 | June 25, 2016 |

| | |
|--|---|
| deep spring my client asks the same question I've been searching for | night train my thoughts fit on the window's slide |
| Aug. 4, 2016 | Sept. 7, 2016 |

Marietta McGregor (Wollaston Place, Australia)

| | |
|---|--|
| autumn beach the long shadow of a limpet shell | kaleidoscope slowly spinning into winter |
| Jan. 28, 2016 Comment: A very good "shasei" piece (without any interpretation or explanation). | Feb. 15, 2016 |

| | |
|--|---|
| forgotten jam jar beside a pond full of legs | duck pair swims a bicycle path flooding rains |
| June 1, 2016 | Dec. 9, 2016 |

Ann-Marie McHarg (London, UK)

| | |
|---|--|
| Today On a breath of wind Autumn left | Silently Heron watching The floating world |
| Jan. 29, 2016 Comment: Sensitive. | May 12, 2016 |

K. Ramesh (Chennai, India)

| | |
|---|--|
| village asleep... a crescent moon over the Shiva's temple | summer morning... I wake up to the thud of a mango on the roof |
| Jan. 30, 2016 Comment: In my dream Shiva appeared. | Aug. 18, 2016 |

General comment: I always enjoy the Indian manners and customs through the author's haiku.

stephen toft (Lancaster, UK)

| |
|---|
| blurred lights the ghost of a nuclear waste train |
| Feb. 1, 2016 Comment: Haiku and "Mighty Atom" might save the nuclear-damaged Fukushima towns, Japan. |

yukiko smith (Raleigh, NC, USA)

Hospice window
sun goes down
can't stop

Feb. 2, 2016

Comment: Excellent. This is a real haiku.

Daniel Blackwell (Whitewell, Worksop, UK)

Setsubun festival:
"Demons, also, welcome inside!"
says the old man

Feb. 3, 2016

Comment: There are two types: good demons and bad demons. At "Setsubun," we Japanese throw small baked beans at the evil demons to ward off bad luck and welcome good fortune.

Krzysztof Kokot (Nowy Targ, Poland)

Epiphany—
in a snow blizzard
cannot see the stars

Feb. 6, 2016

graduation—
the first job offer from
Robinson Crusoe

July 27, 2016

Comment: A dexterously constructed fantasy haiku.

Mark Miller (Shoalhaven Heads, Australia)

| | |
|--|--|
| waking to the dog's breath on my neck winter's morning | Chrysanthemums in a vase her presence lingers |
| Feb. 8, 2016 | June 27, 2016 Comment: This is surely a counterpart to: She has gone / a vase of wild asters / on the kitchen table (Richard Crist) |

jerry ball (Walnut Creek, CA, USA)

| | |
|--|---|
| frost everywhere we stuff an old sock into the mail slot | bitter morning a sudden shudder jolts through a row of freight cars |
| Feb. 10, 2016 | March 24, 2016 |

| | |
|---|--|
| end of winter I just can't find my glasses without my glasses | the new Star Wars may the Fourth be with you |
| April 18, 2016 | July 28, 2016 |

| |
|--|
| cancer removed I cover the empty spot with my cowboy hat |
| Dec. 13, 2016 |

General comment: You are a great haiku master, Jerry Ball. I hope you will regain your vigor. The haiku above are all superb. No. 5, especially, is just like you. Expecting your next masterpieces in the year of 2017.

Sylvester Samintiar (Jakarta, Indonesia)

Winter in prison
Freedom in two more seasons
Damn fat mosquitoes

Feb. 11, 2016

Comment: Monzaemon Chikamatsu (1653-1724), Japanese playwright: "Art exists in the slender margin between reality and unreality."

Alexey Golubev (Saint Petersburg, Russia)

summer's end
she tames the bicycle
like a unicorn

Feb. 12, 2016

Comment: A child is far more precious than jewels. The third line is unexpected.

Simon Hanson (Allendale, Australia)

venetian blinds
afternoon shadows
and a little jazz

Feb. 13, 2016

through the night
a train and its light
crossing the desert

March 5, 2016

in church
ah the colors
in a fly's wing

April 5, 2016

Tripping
over river stones
moon shadow

July 8, 2016

neon boulevard
the night slips by
a tinted windscreen

Oct. 24, 2016

General comment: The author's "romantic haiku" must be highly praised, especially with the skillful haiku punch lines.

Szymon Rybinski (Bydgoszcz, Poland)

sun behind a cloud
my shadow
dissolved

Feb. 16, 2016

Comment: "Dissolved" is a shivering choice of word.

Angelee Deodhar (Chandigarh, India)

first temple visit—
offering a fresh red bib
to a stone Jizo

Feb. 17, 2016

Comment: I occasionally visit a neighboring "ojizo-sama" for my old-age problems, putting a small roadside flower in front of the stone statue.

Romano Zeraschi (Parma, Italy)

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| facing storm... my bandana red and blue | moon bouncing offshore |
| Feb. 18, 2016 | July 22, 2016 |

| |
|--|
| Madly Orbiting Moth |
| Oct. 12, 2016 Comment: The three capital letters enhance the state of frenzy. |

minami e-ichimiya (Ibaraki, Japan)

| | |
|--|---|
| snake gourds shine reflecting my reminiscences | turn off heater only sounds of breathing and ocean |
| Feb. 19, 2016 | May 6, 2016 Comment: The punch line (ocean) is individual. |

Mario Massimo Zontini (Parma, Italy)

| | |
|---|--|
| a bitter day— I buy some persimmons and a smile | Northern sea— some stranded boats long for the tide |
| Feb. 20, 2016 | Sept. 27, 2016 Comment: "Long" is an effective choice of word in the second line. |

Eva Limbach (Saarbrücken, Germany)

| | |
|---|--|
| dream catcher the weight of the morning light | winter fog silent the old park benches |
| Feb. 22, 2016 | March 10, 2016 |

| | |
|--|---|
| calling cranes in my hand a snail shell | close to home the well-known clamour of mocking birds |
| May 9, 2016 Comment: Eva has a knack for juxtaposing two things not so close and not too far away. In this haiku, "cranes" and "a snail shell." | June 3, 2016 |

| | |
|---|---|
| summer solstice my shadow and me changing sides | no day off the permanent pattering of summer rain |
| July 2, 2016 | Sept. 24, 2016 |

| | |
|---|--|
| last waltz I'll ask the autumn wind | Candlelight dinner secretly adding some salt |
| Nov. 9, 2016 | Dec. 26, 2016 |

Marina Bellini (Bagnolo San Vito, Italy)

| | |
|--|---|
| thick fog the shortest day getting shorter | rent collector footprints in the snow from door to door |
| Feb. 23, 2016 | March 22, 2016 |

| | |
|---|--|
| blah blah blah the first daffodil goes unnoticed | energy bill— I put it in my pocket and gaze at the sun |
| May 10, 2016 Comment: "Blah blah blah" remains in my mind. | July 14, 2016 Comment: A good shot. The author is good at comical haiku in which his deep mind is firmly planted. |

Angelica Seithe (Wettenberg, Germany)

| |
|--|
| dinner with you the bones of our fishes shoulder to shoulder |
| Feb. 24, 2016 Comment: Angelica is an amicable poet with excellent haiku. |

Teiichi Suzuki (Osaka, Japan)

| | |
|--|---|
| ghost of the wind likely to lurk in pampas grass field | snow falling on the M of McDonald |
| Feb. 25, 2016 | March 17, 2016 Comment: This is the best of his pieces. He can find "beauty" even in the usual daily things. |

| | |
|---|---|
| uncertainty of existence— February 29 | turning off my hearing aid— night deepens |
| April 1, 2016 | May 14, 2016 |

| | |
|---|--|
| evening field seed sower's shadow looks in prayer | Defeat Day— soundless explosion of a canna |
| June 2, 2016 Comment: (see No. 7 below) | Sept. 15, 2016 |

| | |
|--|---|
| inland sea— a squall erases isles one by one | Marine Day— off the reclaimed land tanker sails |
| Oct. 6, 2016 Comment: An excellent sketch. However, I fear there is some antecedent because this haiku contains typical "haikuish" materials with a representative haiku composition procedure. The same comment will do for No. 5 above. | Nov. 1, 2016 |

General comment: Teiichi Suzuki is an almighty Japanese haiku writer.

Anna Cates (Wilmington, OH, USA)

| |
|---|
| orange dusk into the stillness white tails skip away |
| Feb. 29, 2016 Comment: Anna could find a better word for "stillness" in the second line. |

Stephen A. Peters (Bellingham, WA, USA)

| | |
|---|--|
| early spring the breeze in the pianist's fingers | walking on foot the guy in the Mercedes asks me for directions |
| March 2, 2016 Comment: "The pianist's fingers" are so fresh: "newness," I should say. | June 20, 2016 |

| | |
|---|---|
| my name still on her dance card cherry blossoms | Medicine take as needed spring breeze |
| July 4, 2016 | Aug. 2, 2016 |

| |
|---|
| Zen path the litter along the way |
| Nov. 15, 2016 |

Kanchan Chatterjee (Jharkhand, India)

| |
|---|
| on the side where mist remains... a dog barks |
| March 3, 2016 Comment: My version of the third line: a cat meows. |

Goda V. Bendoraitiene (Klaipeda, Lithuania)

| | |
|---|--|
| serene lake— a black swan stretches its wings among white swans | small world... a child draws with a twig the sun on puddle |
| March 4, 2016 | Oct. 21, 2016 |

| |
|---|
| dewy willow sunrise lights up only one side |
| Dec. 7, 2016 Comment: The sketch of the last line comes from the haijin's deep insight. |

Aidan Dooley (APO AP 96319)

| |
|--|
| the one star stands ordinary but looks so strange |
| March 7, 2016 Comment: They say pilots often encounter UFOs. |

R. K. Singh (Dhanbad, India)

| |
|--|
| smell of fish in his apple juice bottle— costermonger |
| March 8, 2016 Comment: Thanks for the word "costermonger." It really smells. |

Bouwe Brouwer (Sneek, Netherlands)

long distance call
an unknown fragrance
through the open window

March 9, 2016

Comment: This haiku probably comes from a kind of extrasensory perception or synesthesia.

Ranieri Christiane (Wittenheim, France)

birthday—
in my daughter's hair
a woman's perfume

Comment: darkness—
the more i perceive it
the less i see

March 11, 2016

Comment: The author's haiku territory is wide-ranging. I think this is the best of her pieces ... a psychological approach to her daughter's development.

April 6, 2016

area without wifi—
briefly connected
our eyes

ephemeral...
rising in my eyes
dies in my hand

July 23, 2016

Sept. 29, 2016

oana boazu (Galati, Romania)

the railroad tracks
heading the same direction—
overnight snow

deeper night—
the crow can't be spotted
anymore

March 12, 2016

Sept. 23, 2016

| | |
|---|---|
| 4 am— autumn rain more profound than my sleep | no coffee— the world falters with every step |
| Nov. 2, 2016 | Dec. 21, 2016 Comment: This is a bit overstated. However, in the second and third lines, we feel some "newness." |

dl mattila (Court Oakton, VA, USA)

| | |
|---|---|
| a ford flatbed chased by the dust finally settles | it was just a simple question endless sky |
| March 16, 2016 | June 13, 2016 |

| | |
|---|---|
| lying dormant like a seed... my enlightenment | city of jasmine (Damascus) when scattered seed return to flower |
| July 6, 2016 | Aug. 26, 2016 |

General comment: We acknowledge the author's way of life in the first and third haiku.

Ana Prundaru (Zurich, Switzerland)

| | |
|---|--|
| ambulance snowfall carries away winter dusk | obon drums ancestors travel to different beats |
| March 18, 2016 Comment: My version: snow falling / ambulance carries away / winter dusk. | Aug. 15, 2016 |

Toshio Matsumoto (Osaka, Japan)

| | |
|--|---|
| The sun setting under the white futon-like snow-clad mountains | a crow on transparent plastic roof first time i saw her soles |
| March 23, 2016 Comment: My version: The sun is setting / under the white futon-like / snow-clad mountains. In this case, I simply divided one sentence into three lines. | June 16, 2016 Comment: This shows "newness." |

| | |
|--|---|
| to the accompaniment of sutra chanting silence | outside the end-term test room a cicada chased by a sparrow piddled |
| July 13, 2016 | Oct. 19, 2016 |

| |
|---|
| Typhoon's eye on which a dandelion seed lands |
| Nov. 17, 2016 |

Sanjuktaa Asopa (Belgaum, India)

| |
|--|
| the sky trapped between the mountain peaks... a hawk's cry |
| March 25, 2016 Comment: How about exchanging the first line with the last one? |

Tomasz Szymczak (Chojnice, Poland)

winter sunset—
old European nun
on empty beach

March 26, 2016

Comment: "Nun" invokes melancholic
desolation — God knows.

Priscilla H Lignori (Montgomery, NY, USA)

Night of the new moon—
over the Catskill mountains
clouds pass by like dreams

March 28, 2016

His motion maintained
by slow powerful strokes—
flight of the blue heron

Oct. 20, 2016

Comment: My version: blue heron / maintains /
the same flight strokes.

A lighter blue than
the morning glory that closed—
his hospital gown

Nov. 24, 2016

William W. Thomson (Dundee, Scotland)

urban walk
the homeless reflect
in street puddles

March 29, 2016

Comment: The plural "homeless" people in the
second line are powerful.

Urszula Wielanowska (Kielce, Poland)

behind the curtain
my baldness
does not shine

March 30, 2016

Comment: A good comical haiku.

Jennifer Sutherland (Viewbank, Australia)

cookie cutters
a dozen stars
in the sky

April 2, 2016

Comment: You made beautiful stars in the night sky with the cookie cutters. You did it.

Anna Goluba (Warsaw, Poland)

starless sky...
all the wishes
fulfilled

April 4, 2016

Comment: I think so, too.

Heike Gewi (Sachsen-Anhalt, Yemen)

| | |
|---|---|
| shadows black man white man | spring wind I have to make up my mind |
| May 28, 2016 Comment: Alas! Two shades of shadow. No more Hiroshimas, no more Nagasakis. | May 28, 2016 |

Valeria Barouch (Geneva, Switzerland)

| |
|--|
| Boreas attacks— curled up on the city roofs chimney smokes |
| April 8, 2016 Comment: Boreas: a wind that blows from the north. |

Maria Tomczak (Opole, Poland)

| |
|--|
| funeral service on the coffin jumps spring rain |
| April 9, 2016 Comment: This could be a real scene. But in this case you should choose other fictional expressions like: "winter rain" or "autumn rain" for the last line. |

Djordja Vukelic Rozic (Ivanic Grad, Croatia)

| | |
|---|---|
| high blood pressure in the street salt on the ice | in the pasture... a foal, grasshoppers grass blades...all hopping |
| April 11, 2016 | Aug. 16, 2016 Comment: "All hopping" is the best choice of expression. |

Heike Stehr (Moers, Germany)

| |
|--|
| open-air festival a clown juggles with the stars |
| April 13, 2016 Comment: The author could be a super genius clown juggler. |

Helga Stania (Ettiswil, Switzerland)

| | |
|--|--|
| mudflow an old man tamps his pipe | 70th fall the taste of bittersweet chocolate |
| April 14, 2016 Comment: This has very good haiku taste. | Dec. 27, 2016 |

Gennady Nov (Moscow, Russia)

| |
|---|
| meteor shower one of them mine |
| April 19, 2016 Comment: I experienced the big bang 10 billion years ago. |

John Zheng (Itta Bena, MS, USA)

egg head mannequin
a mark of red kiss lips left
on its gloss white face

April 20, 2016

Today I understood that it's impossible to include the seasonal element in some haiku.

Tony Lewis-Jones (Bristol, UK)

spectral blonde
on the late bus
scarf wrapped tight

Oxford—
the light
the dust

April 21, 2016

July 30, 2016

Comment: Through the glass windows at Oxford University...

cezar-florin ciobica (Botosani, Romania)

before carnival
trying on a lot
of chemo wigs

April 22, 2016

Comment: Japanese wigs are superb, they say. Why not try some?

Tsanka Shishkova (Sofia, Bulgaria)

two smiling faces
in the puddle after rain
the sun and the child

April 25, 2016

Comment: I call this one "happy haiku."

Adjei Agyei-Baah (Kumasi, Ghana)

morning at seaside
scattered shells hold water
for the rising sun

April 28, 2016

Comment: The author knows haiku well.

druart patrick (Urou et Crennes, France)

shifting winds—
the Mexican wave of her dress
and her umbrella

April 30, 2016

Comment: She wears a loud-colored dress and her umbrella is loud, too, as she walks along the wooden terrace.

Bruce Ross (Bangor, ME, USA)

Tokyo morning
Fuji hazier and brighter
with the clouds

May 2, 2016

Ryoanji
a garden boulder brightens
with spring rain

July 1, 2016

hidden bay...
more or less in place
young loon

Oct. 1, 2016

General comment: Please send us excellent haiku in 2017, too, great haiku master Bruce Ross.

Adrian Bouter (Gouda, Netherlands)

flower petal
a fragment of sun
lifted by the breeze

May 5, 2016

Comment: Spring is in full force.

Lavana Kray (Iasi, Romania)

more light in my life...
a moth enlarging
the curtain hole

May 7, 2016

arms around the tree—
I'm listening
to upcoming book

Sept. 3, 2016

General comment: These evoke a strange feeling.

Reiss McGuinness (Bath, UK)

children on the hill
their silhouettes between
my thumb and finger

May 11, 2016

Comment: No unnecessary words or phrases.
Moreover, this is a new way of writing haiku
about children.

Meik Blottenberger (Hanover, PA, USA)

monkey bars
kids swing above
this fragile planet

May 16, 2016

Comment: This might be one of the greatest
children's haiku on our "fragile monkey planet."

Marco Pilotto (Padova, Italy)

drizzle
fish kissing
the sky

May 17, 2016

Comment: "The sky" has been safely put in the final line.

Paul Chambers (Newport, Wales, UK)

dandelion seeds
in the tractor smoke
evening sun

May 18, 2016

Comment: I like to access natural scenes in Wales through haiku.

Andrea Cecon (Cividale del Friuli, Italy)

falling down
from the overcast sky
a hawk's cry

May 19, 2016

Comment: It's rather complex to arrange the order of these lines.

Steliana Cristina Voicu (Prahova, Romania)

Earth's sky—
Kerala tea plantation
in sunlight

May 20, 2016

quinces lights
filling
Grandpa's old room

Sept. 20, 2016

Comment: Nostalgic "quinces lights" outside late Grandpa's room.

Rudi Pfaller (Remshalden, Germany)

father passed away
south wind brings
Sahara dust

May 21, 2016

Comment: "Sahara dust" is so fascinating.

tommy ichimiya (Ibaraki, Japan)

spring storm changes
shops' flags into
samurai banners

May 23, 2016

spring mud
heaves like
bosom

June 18, 2016

setting sun reflects
commuter train window
wonderland outside

Sept. 19, 2016

calm cumulonimbus
overlooks
travelling train

Nov. 23, 2016

Comment: Best interpretation of haiku.

faraway the Diet Building
here wine glass
perspires

Dec. 24, 2016

Comment: A smart and tasteful piece by juxtaposing two objects: "the Diet Building" and "wine glass."

Namiko Yamamoto (Kawasaki, Japan)

| | |
|---|--|
| Violet soup, Couldn't help singing In a hotel bath | Moon peeped through rain clouds at President Obama |
| May 24, 2016 Comment: "Soup": An eccentric but charming choice of word by a non-native speaker of English. | Aug. 23, 2016 |

Beate Conrad (Waterford, MI, USA)

| | |
|---|--|
| Good Friday— the makeshift refugee camp in deep mad | pink moon rising— I still drink from that cup of my first love |
| May 25, 2016 | June 4, 2016 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Feeding black hole— a theory predicting its own failure | Higher and higher the singing girl on the swing jumps from star to star |
| Aug. 11, 2016 Comment: An ironic "newness." | Oct. 26, 2016 |

| | |
|---|--|
| ripe apple what color yielding its shadow | |
| Dec. 17, 2016 Comment: You will see in a moment. | |

Zuzanna Truchlewska (Mickiewicza, Poland)

| | |
|---|---|
| night tryst on the woman's hips full moon | the earthquake in the rubble of a day care a lego tower |
| May 27, 2016 | July 21, 2016 |

| | |
|---|--|
| a store with umbrella through the open doors dandelion seeds | low tide— the lighthouse's shadow covered by a wave |
| Aug. 13, 2016 Comment: A fantastic juxtaposition: umbrella and dandelion seeds. | Nov. 25, 2016 Comment: Newness": "the lighthouse's shadow" together with the final line. |

| |
|---|
| night pond— the Big Dipper full of leaves |
| Dec. 30, 2016 |

Tsanka Shishkova (Sofia, Bulgaria)

| |
|--|
| Heritage handwritten letters in handmade box |
| May 30, 2016 Comment: The "h" alliteration provides warmth to readers. |

Antonella Filippi (Genova, Italy)

| |
|---|
| windy evening— the drunk and the tree to and fro |
| June 7, 2016 Comment: The scent of alcohol-soaked humor. |

Angela Cornelia Voss (Luetjenburg, Germany)

Spring sun—
Doll mummies chattering
outdoors.

June 9, 2016

Comment: Outdoor chatter brings a toy story to life.

Guliz Vural (Ankara, Turkey)

crocus or not
my young boyhood
stands in the melting snow

June 10, 2016

Comment: I can easily imagine that.

Tyrone McDonald (Brooklyn, NY, USA)

gloomy puddle
still the urge
to see myself

where stars should be the clear
sound of gunshots

June 11, 2016

Comment: He is seeking "it" in the depths of his mind.

Sept. 12, 2016

minami ichimiya (Ibaraki, Japan)

| | |
|--|--|
| spring morning in the park anti-nuclear guitarist | some morning glories bloom even in rainy day |
| June 15, 2016 Comment: I'd like to listen to the guitar music all day long. | Nov. 16, 2016 |

Lyudmila Hristova (Sofia, Bulgaria)

| |
|--|
| silent lake shadows of fish flit over the moon |
| June 21, 2016 Comment: "Flit" is new. |

Capota Daniela Lacramioara (Galati, Romania)

| | |
|---|---|
| fifty— my mirror getting acquainted another wrinkle | Juliet's balcony— only honeysuckle climbs |
| June 22, 2016 | July 11, 2016 |

| | |
|---|--|
| Cinema verite— a gust of wind in her white dress | Discolored here and there on the tiles— old piano cabaret |
| Aug. 22, 2016 Comment: The author knows how to use colors efficiently like in black and white films. | Sept. 1, 2016 Comment: "Discolored" and "old" are closely related. My way: discolored tiles / here and there / piano bar. |

Billy Antonio (Pangasinan, Philippines)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| old well the depth of my voice | Day's end the buffalo cart right behind its shadow |
| June 23, 2016 | July 20, 2016 Comment: A neat movie-style edit of "the buffalo cart" in the prairie. |

Christine Horner (Lafayette, CA, USA)

| | |
|---|--|
| phone survey I hear myself say goodbye to a machine | distant thunder in sleep the dog knows and shivers |
| June 24, 2016 | Sept. 22, 2016 |

| |
|---|
| midnight snack— the airport vending machine eats my credit card |
| Oct. 14, 2016 |

General comment: This author was born to be a haiku master.

Aparna Pathak (Haryana, India)

| |
|---|
| blasts... only a rag picker on road |
| June 28, 2016 Comment: This one has come straight from the author's own personal experience. |

Basia Lewandowski (Panama City, FL, USA)

glistening sun
between tree branches
a bird eating a fish

June 29, 2016

Comment: You've done a good job of using materials from Florida.

Alan Summers (Chippenham, Wiltshire, England)

secret garden
a clue to everything
lies with the crows

July 7, 2016

a grove of elms
Christopher Logue slips
back into the Iliad

Dec. 15, 2016

Comment: This author knows the Iliad well. Unfortunately I am not familiar with Christopher Logue.

Midhat Hrcncic Midho (Sanski Most, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

first I noticed
my loose shoe loop—
then falling down

July 12, 2016

Comment: This is a real haiku. If it had a seasonal element, it would be a masterpiece.

Tim Gardiner (Manningtree, Essex, England)

| | |
|---|---|
| a fresh flush of old man's beard the path narrows | past the Basho tree sumo on a bike |
| July 16, 2016 | Dec. 29, 2016 Comment: Typically, the haiku construction would be as follows: past the Basho tree / sumo / on a bike. Nevertheless, this one-liner version has a fresh angle and an interesting tempo. |

John Hamley (Marmora, ON, Canada)

| | |
|---|---|
| Military hospital old smuggler sips brandy | Driving by I always greet the elm |
| July 18, 2016 Comment: A very good tasting haiku with a smuggler and brandy. | Sept. 14, 2016 |

| |
|--|
| Autism self test escaped by one point brightly shining |
| Dec. 16, 2016 |

Ed Bremson (Raleigh, NC, USA)

| | |
|---|--|
| construction site— crows perched on skeletons of houses | in a wheelchair an old Japanese woman solving Sudoku |
| July 25, 2016 Comment: A new way of constructing haiku. | Dec. 22, 2016 |

Keith A. Simmonds (Rodez, France)

In the distance
thunder rolling into
the sound of thunder

July 26, 2016

Comment: The author should take credit for the phrase "rolling into."

Angela Cornelia Voss (Luetjenburg, Germany)

Brexit morning—
The dense blanket of clouds
opens up.

Aug. 3, 2016

Comment: A Brexit one.

Birgit Schaldach-Helmlechner (Schluchtern, Germany)

brexit—
grumbling thunder
in the morning sky

Aug. 5, 2016

Comment: Another Brexit one.

Richard Jodoin (Montreal, Canada)

Moths
hitting a lamppost
ecstasy

Aug. 8, 2016

Comment: "Ecstasy" is a word from the author. Explanation or interpretation spoils haiku.

At dawn
sand castles' ruins
a crab runs fast

Sept. 26, 2016

Tom Sacramona (Plainville, MA, USA)

under a black branch
stars come out
the croaking frogs

August 9, 2016

Comment: "Stars" and "frogs" go together.

Origa (Lansing, MI, USA)

widow...
when I said this word
the bird stopped singing

Aug. 12, 2016

Comment: I have now discovered the word "widow's peak." Thanks, Origa san.

Lucia Fontana (Milan, Italy)

barley expands—
like incense smoke
the poppy waves

Aug. 17, 2016

autumn wind
I'm the pomegranate
I'm its branch

Nov. 3, 2016

Comment: I rate this one very highly.

biopsy...
between me and the sky
a rainbow stretched

Dec. 12, 2016

Pasquale Asprea (Genova, Italy)

| | |
|--|--|
| cloudy moon— a sedentary seabream moves seaweeds | evening mist— the bird songs invisible |
| Aug. 19, 2016 | Sept. 21, 2016 |

| | |
|---|--|
| afternoon raga— the belt of turntable is struggling | clams in the sand struggling for the New Year |
| Oct. 22, 2016 | Dec. 31, 2016 Comment: This is one of the best haiku. |

General comment: This author knows haiku well.

Rajib Phukan (Assam, India)

| |
|--|
| summer rain— birds become buddhas on tree-top |
| Aug. 20, 2016 Comment: The first line is effective. |

Diarmuid Fitzgerald (Dublin, Ireland)

| |
|--|
| both bending in the wind a susuki stalk and myself |
| Aug. 24, 2016 Comment: Human beings are weak and fragile, but haiku is something that is dependable. |

Artur Lewandowski (Sieradz, Poland)

split-up
for the first time you write to me
in black ink

Aug. 27, 2016

Comment: In red: renunciation; green: ecological, etc. In this case, "in black" means serious.

Dana Iulian (Bucharest, Romania)

Firefighters' Day—
in the hand of the child
a four-leaf clover

Aug. 29, 2016

Comment: Recently I haven't picked up a happy clover. Tomorrow I'll walk to a nearby ground.

Nika (Victoria, BC, Canada)

community garden
St. Francis and Buddha
on separate paths

Aug. 30, 2016

Comment: Write to the community center.

Mark Gilbert (Nottingham, UK)

still pond
manic tadpoles
beneath the surface

Sept. 2, 2016

Comment: My way: manic / beneath the surface / tadpoles

Marta Chocilowska (Warsaw, Poland)

summertime—
our old swing
still creaks

Sept. 5, 2016

Comment: The author communicates with the oldies and goodies on the creaking swing during the summer holidays.

Madhu Pillai (Melbourne, Australia)

veiled moon
from cloud to cloud
she follows me home

Sept. 8, 2016

Comment: Good girl!

Maurizio Petruccioli (Corno di Rosazzo, Italy)

winter pond—
in my memory
a frog jumps

Sept. 9, 2016

Comment: And the carp jumps, too.

Lilia Racheva Dencheva (Rousse, Bulgaria)

expedition
dragonfly
on the pumpkins

Sept. 10, 2016

Comment: My way: a / dragonfly / on the pumpkin.

Marek Kozubek (Bangkok, Thailand)

autumn dusk—
someone walking
with its shadow

Sept. 16, 2016

Comment: "Dusk" and "shadow": too close.

Goran Gatalica (Zabreb, Croatia)

inland monastery—
only luminous dust
entwined with mercy

Sept. 17, 2016

Comment: A noble religious painting.

sun proves
with its shadow at the fence
Pythagorean theorem

Dec. 2, 2016

Comment: Humans could not have proved many theories under the sun.

Jose del Valle (Rockville, RI, USA)

late-summer heat
confusion on the face
of a paper wasp

Sept. 28, 2016

immense night
jingle of car keys
quiets the crickets

Oct. 31, 2016

Comment: A masterpiece: "immense" is so effective.

Angelo B. Ancheta (Rizal, Philippines)

summer end
a ripe avocado falls
on my head

Sept. 30, 2016

Comment: High-quality humor.

Yvonne Wong (Briar Hill, Australia)

easier and easier
to close my eyes
these autumn evening

Oct. 4, 2016

Comment: A good piece. This author clearly likes haiku very much.

Andrius Luneckas (Vilnius, Lithuania)

summer rain
who have saw another side
of rainbow

Oct. 5, 2016

Comment: One of the best haiku of 2016.

Howard Lee Kilby (Hot Springs, AR, USA)

Bob Hope Airport
a kind policeman
offers me earplugs

Oct. 7, 2016

Comment: "Bob Hope" is a great choice.

Tomislav Maretic (Zagreb, Croatia)

coming home...
white gourd flowers
on the fence

Oct. 10, 2016

Comment: The second line can be inevitable on the route home.

Dragan J. Ristic (Nis, Serbia)

Eurydice—
on the halfway from the beach
sunset

Oct. 11, 2016

Comment: Eurydice: the wife of Orpheus who is a great musician. When his wife Eurydice died he went to Hades to get her back, but failed.

Oscar Luparia (Vercelli, Italy)

laundry in the sun—
in the midst of clothespins
a butterfly

Oct. 15, 2016

Comment: A beautiful image.

clothes in the sun:
the fresh breeze wears
my shirts

Nov. 26, 2016

Valeria Simonova-Cecon (Cividale del Friuli, Italy)

through the Europe
in a refugee's pocket
an olive seed

Oct. 17, 2016

Comment: "An olive seed" will be flourishing soon.

Maria Laura Valente (Cesena (FC), Italy)

summer wind—
in the sound of waves
an endless mantra

Oct. 18, 2016

crescent moon—
I'm moulding the future
in my womb

Nov. 11, 2016

sudden wind—
the colours of fallen leaves
all mixed up

Dec. 14, 2016

General comment: You will be a happy mom.

Dave Whippman (Blackpool, England)

Hokusai seascape:
tips of the waves
serpents' claws.

Oct. 25, 2016

Comment: I sleep every night with a jigsaw puzzle of Hokusai on the wall.

Dan Iulian (Bucharest, Romania)

fat pumpkin—
I'm reconciling myself
to my roundness

Oct. 27, 2016

Comment: Dan, don't you think you'll be a slender man?

Tom Becks (Maastricht, Netherlands)

close to a bus stop
the typhoon makes strange insects
from the umbrellas

Oct. 29, 2016

Comment: The third line is unexpected. My pants were blown away by the recent typhoon across the veranda.

Robert M Erickson (Alsip, IL, USA)

jury duty—
inside the wait
outside the rain

Nov. 10, 2016

Comment: Inside or outside: Both are "haikuic" circumstances.

Vitali Khomin (Mukachevo City, Ukraine)

after the divorce
still want to run
in different directions

Nov. 12, 2016

Comment: A very agreeable situation after the divorce. Good luck, both of you.

Jacek Stanislaw Kielich (Wieliczka, Poland)

a glass skyscraper
I look to the east
as the sun sets

Nov. 14, 2016

Comment: What a gorgeous reflection!

Robert Henry Poulin (Micco, FL, USA)

school bell
where I pulled
your pigtails

Nov. 18, 2016

Comment: In a dark corner of the classroom.

Namita Bose (New Delhi, India)

at the hospice
father and I
and Alzheimer

Nov. 19, 2016

Comment: The following haiku comes to mind:
survived — / summer grasses afresh / in the eyes
— Shusei Tokuda (1871-1943). This Japanese
novelist was especially good at ascertaining a
deep state of mind.

Anna Maria Domburg (Den Haag, Netherlands)

Autumn dawn
The blues come
with the piano man

Nov. 21, 2016

night frost
the dead leaves
icy jewels

Dec. 28, 2016

Comment: "Frost" and "icy" are a bit too close in
meaning. My version: "icy night / fallen leaves
becoming / jewels"

Mariusz Ogryzko (Bialystok, Poland)

from mist
pair of cranes
to mist

Nov. 29, 2016

Comment: There are many examples of haiku containing "from" and "to." But this one has an effective repetition of "mist."

Zelyko Funda (Varazdin, Croatia)

night on the farm
moonlight is filling in
the pumpkin heap gaps

Nov. 30, 2016

Comment: The third line is so impressive.

Mary Hind (Melbourne, Australia)

Halloween
a witch with dental braces
demanding candy

Dec. 1, 2016

Comment: This is perfect in content, vocabulary and construction. One of the best haiku in the year of 2016.

Judith Gorgone (West Newton, MA, USA)

fall symphony
a placid precision
of acorns

Dec. 5, 2016

Comment: And fairies are dancing in the air to the music.

Suresh W Raspayle (Bangalore, India)

raining cats and dogs
no road, no visibility
a song on FM

Dec. 8, 2016

Comment: I have experienced bad weather in my small car. The rescue song might be ♪ "Just Singing in the Rain ..."

S Abburi (Bangalore, India)

shadow play
spectators
in the dark

Dec. 10, 2016

Comment: After World War II, we naughty boys enjoyed many kinds of picture-card shows in the burnt out fields.

Eleonoe Nickolay (Vaires sur Marne, France)

night duty
the quiet ringing
of her teaspoon

Dec. 19, 2016

Comment: I once worked part-time at the ice cream factory overnight and napped on the wooden table.

Grankin Nikolay (Krasnodar, Russia)

sandbank
hiding in the shadow of cloud
a shoal of small fish

Dec. 20, 2016

Comment: A haiku of "small beauty." Cf. Geraldine Clinton Little: "Haiku's appeal for me is its "world in a grain of sand" philosophy, the here and now of it."

Maria Teresa Sisti (Gassano di Fivizzano, Italy)

silence grows—
the wind has changed
on the old pine

Dec. 23, 2016

Comment: A good piece of mere depiction. I want to read more.
