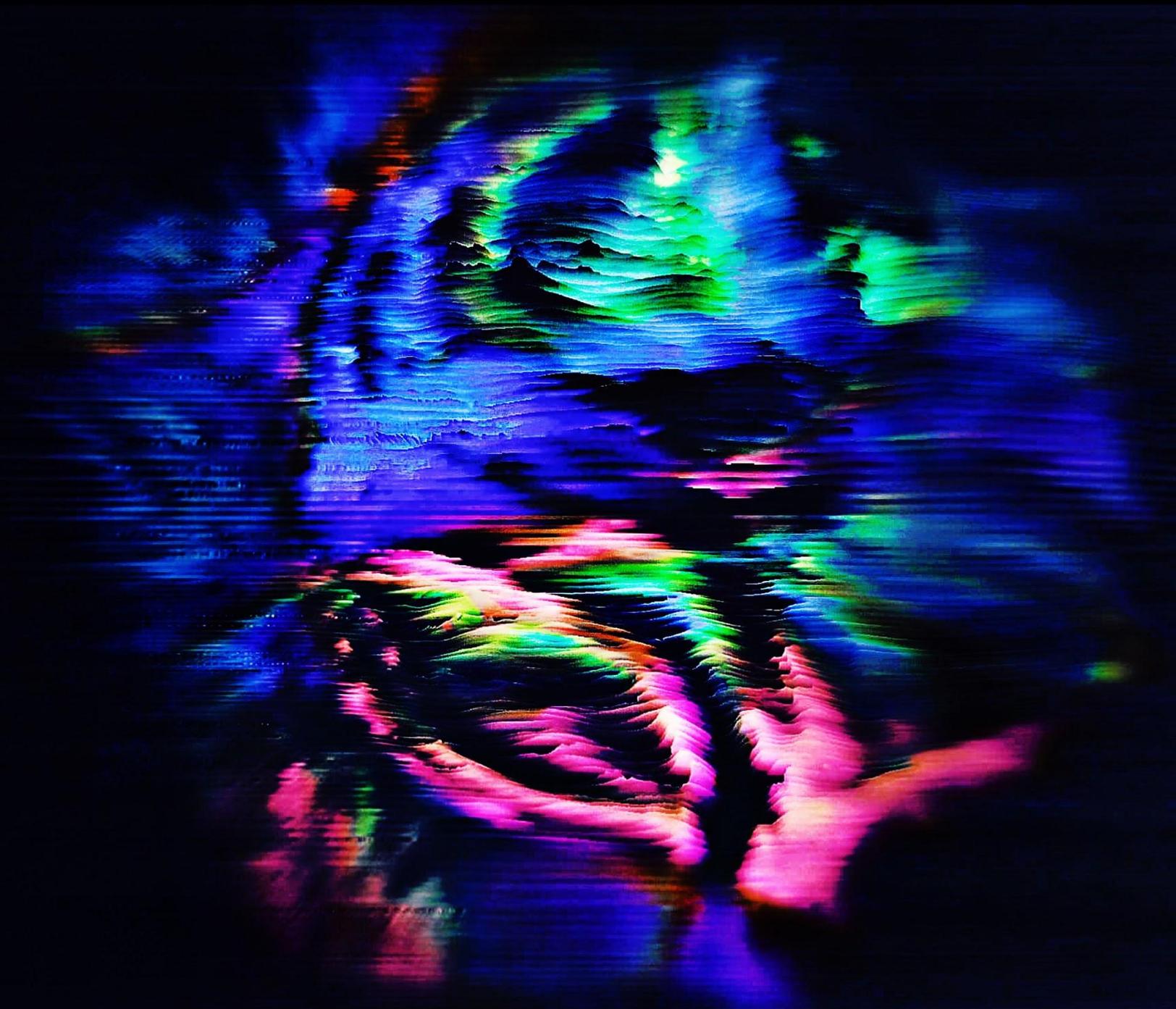


# #FemkuMag



#29

# #FemkuMag

an ezine of haikai poetry by womxn and non-binary folx

April 2021

Issue 29

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**Cover Art:** Lori A Minor

## **Editor's Note**

Love yourself always. Fight for what's right. Stand up for those who are unable to have a voice. Amplify cries for help. Love people harder on their bad days. Don't settle for less than you deserve. Claw your way to the top. Fight even when it hurts. Healing isn't linear. It's okay to not be okay. Be patient with yourself. You deserve good things. And most importantly, remember that you are beautiful, loved, and worthy.

Stay radical always,

Lori A Minor

## contributors

Alexis Rotella

Djurdja Vukelic Rozic

Dorna Hains

Kirsten Cliff Elliot

Elizabeth Crocket

Roberta Beach Jacobson

Muskaan Ahuja

Anna Maria Domburg-Sancristoforo

Mirela Brăilean

Richa Sharma

Pat Geyer

Julie Schwerin

Petra Schmidt

Mary McCormack

Deborah Karl-Brandt

Anna Cates

Kristen Lindquist

Laurie Greer

Marilyn Ashbaugh

Hifsa Ashraf

Barrie Levine

Susan Burch

Susan Burch and *Tia Haynes*

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GRIX and Shloka Shankar  
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Cristina Angelescu  
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Ingrid Bruck  
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Kimberly Dawn

Hazel Hall

Maeve O'Sullivan

Kamrun Nahar

R. Sunanda Chowdhury

Deborah P Kolodji

Lisa Anne Johnson

## Alexis Rotella

pulled into his orbit  
the holy man  
hits on me

wrapped in plastic our lonely world

**BIO:** Alexis Rotella's "Lost Soul" haibun was a Rattle Poetry Journal finalist (2021). Her two latest books, *Unsealing Our Secrets* and *Scratches on the Moon* were awarded Touchstone Book Awards, 2018, 2019). Alexis recently moved to Greensboro, NC where she hopes to begin her acupuncture practice when it's safe to do so.

## Djurdja Vukelic Rozic



**BIO:** Djurdja Vukelic Rozic is the editor in chief of haiku magazine *IRIS International* ([www.tri-rijeke-haiku.hr](http://www.tri-rijeke-haiku.hr)), a writer and translator. She published 25 of her books, six collection among them being haiku and senryu. She lives in Ivanic-Grad, Croatia and organized and coordinated a number of domestic and international haiku contests.

## Dorna Hains

heavy pounding rain his repeated lies

bare breast -  
a pale moon  
rising

**BIO:** Dorna Hains hails from the wee town of Lapeer, Michigan, which has a population of less than 9,000. She is Indian by birth, but an American citizen through the process of adoption. Her interests are in reading and writing. Dorna finds her Haiku inspiration through daily experiences and in sleep.

## Kirsten Cliff Elliot

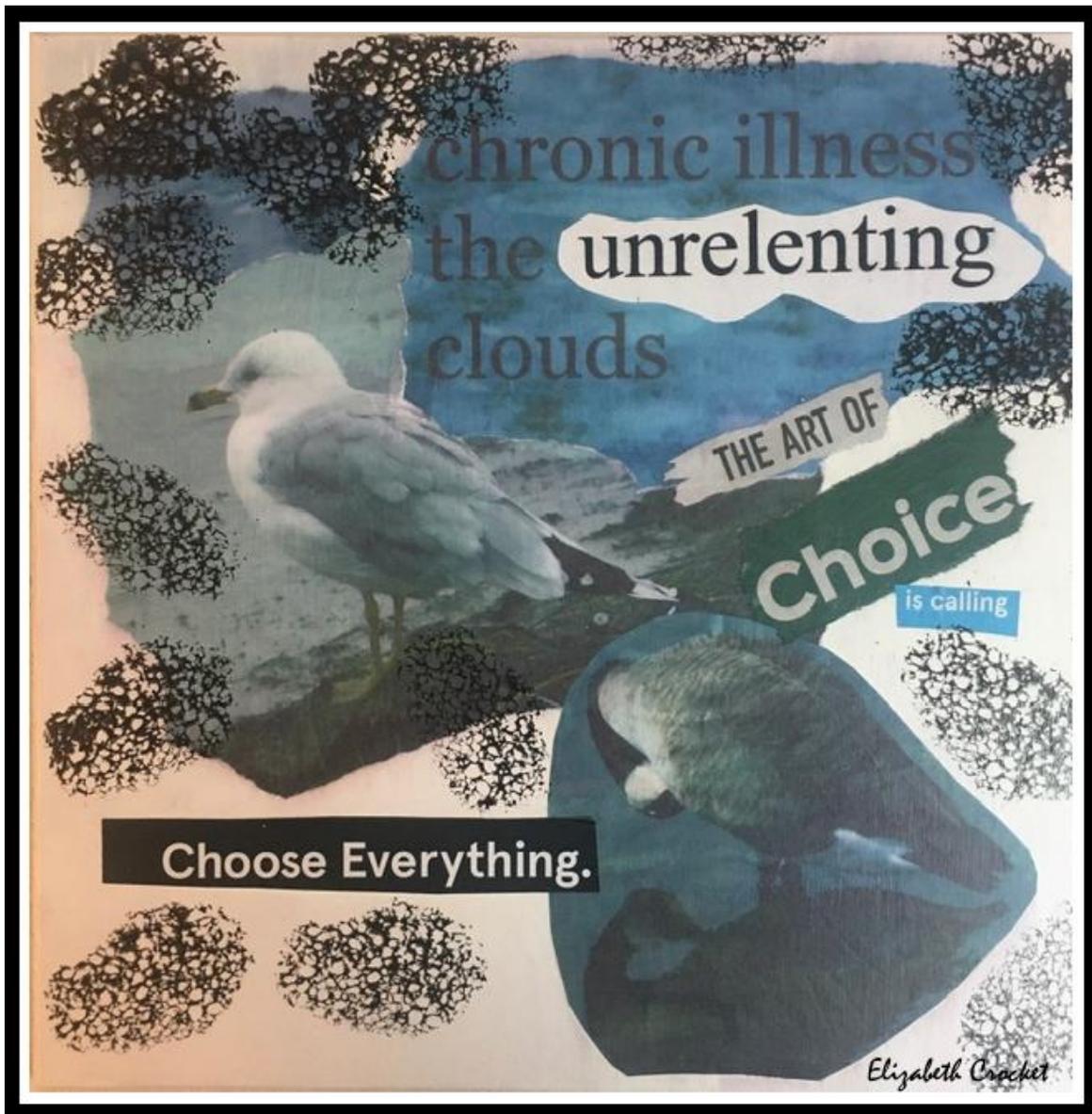
first crickets rising up inside of me

night terrors  
haunted by her ghost  
on social media

static shock  
the way esses  
make us plural

**BIO:** Kirsten Cliff Elliot is a librarian, archivist, writer & poet from NZ. Her first full-length collection of haiku & tanka, *Patient Property: a journey through leukaemia*, is available from Velvet Dusk Publishing & was shortlisted for The Haiku Foundation's Touchstone Distinguished Books Award 2019.

Elizabeth Crocket



## Elizabeth Crocket (cont.)



**BIO:** Elizabeth Crocket has had two books shortlisted for the American Touchstone Distinguished Books Award. She currently has three books published with [Cyberwit.net](https://www.cyberwit.net), *Wondering What's Next*, *How Soon the Colour Fades*, and *What We All Want to Say*, poetry for grades 6-12. Her collage haiga will be featured in the Haiku Foundation Haiga Gallery in July 2021.

# Roberta Beach Jacobson

falling in love voodoo moon

sans surgery  
she lowers  
an octave

down to the bone everything

**BIO:** Roberta Beach Jacobson has worked for 50 years in various jobs, including national forest guide, soldier, Santa's elf, guidance counselor, and obituary writer.

## Muskaan Ahuja

lost in thoughts. . .  
an aunt pulling  
her chin hair

**BIO:** Muskaan Ahuja is a haikin from Chandigarh, India who enjoys good food, art, poetry, and books. Whenever she feels an air of boredom, she immerses herself reading and writing haiku. Her poems have been published in reputed journals like *Failed Haiku*, *Wales Haiku*, *Bottlerockets*, *Frogpond*, *The Haiku Foundation*, *the cherita*, and more.

## Anna Maria Domburg-Sancristoforo

what is lost  
the night grabs away  
little by little  
only in my words now  
the warmth of your body

**BIO:** Anna Maria Domburg-Sancristoforo currently lives in the Netherlands as a retired university lecturer and translator of literary works. Her poetry, written in Italian and English, has been internationally published. Most recently, she placed 3rd in the Kusamakura Haiku Contest (2020). Anna Maria has been included in The European Top 100 Haiku Authors for three years consecutively.

## Mirela Brăilean

first snowdrop -  
my professional smile  
over the back pain

his lips on the scars of my wrist

all seasons  
on the same branch  
bedridden

**BIO:** Mirela Brăilean, author of *Loiter on Hills* (2019), is a biologist and a member of both the Romanian and French Haiku Society. She has won awards in competitions such as RO Foto Haiku, Senryu, Romanian Haiku and Kukai, Foto Haiga. She has haiku published in *The Mainichi*, *#FemkuMag*, *The Bamboo Hut*, *Haiku Dialogue*, and many others.

## Richa Sharma

despite mortality the gift of you

mind fog  
just a line  
suffices

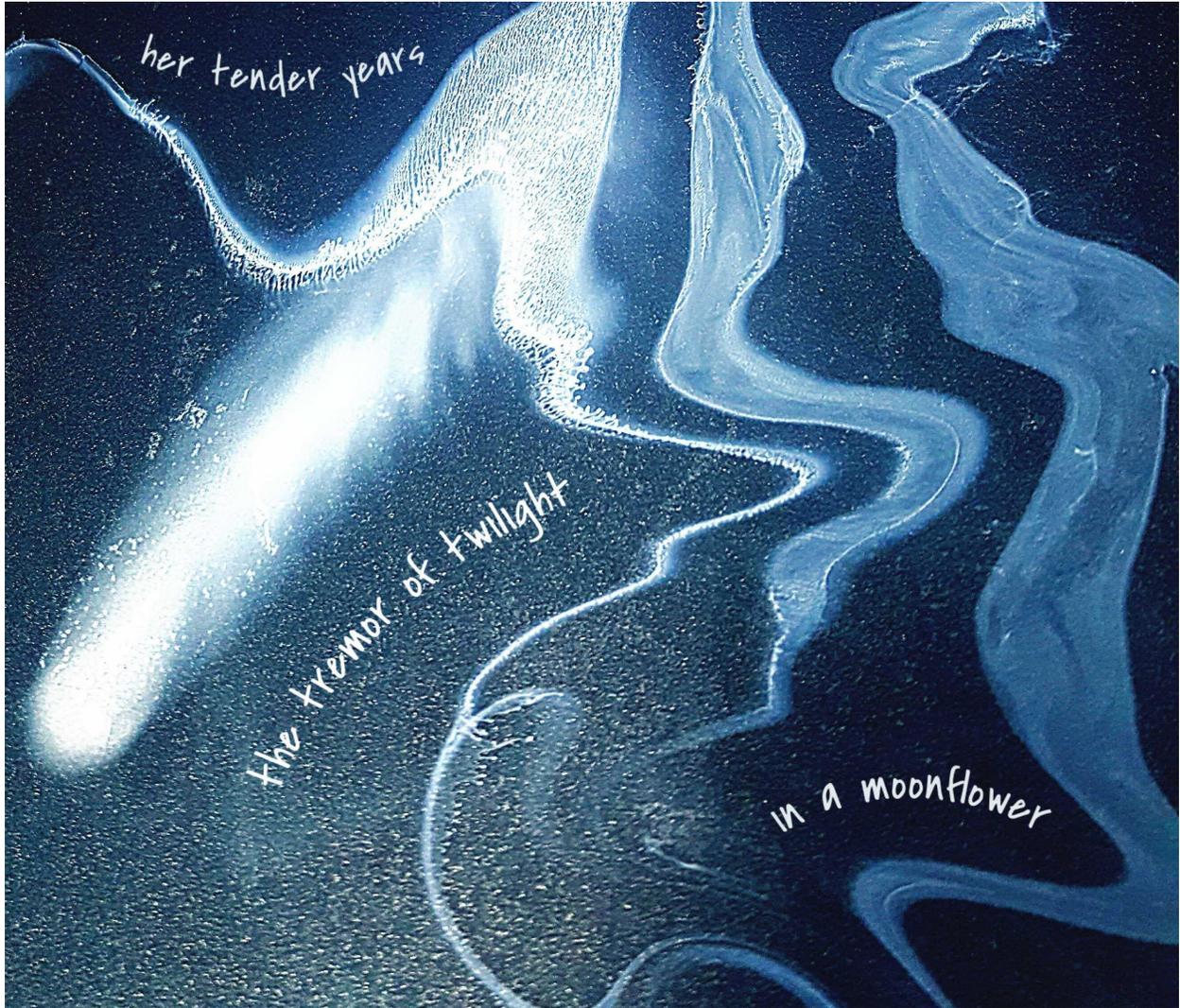
**BIO:** Richa Sharma has been writing Japanese short form poetry for about two years, inspired by her love of nature and English literature. Her work has appeared in numerous journals.

## Pat Geyer

white dragonfly -  
you are not common  
in my eyes

**BIO:** Pat Geyer lives in East Brunswick, NJ, USA. Her home is surrounded by the parks and lakes where she finds her inspiration in Nature. Published in several journals, she is an amateur photographer and poet.

Julie Schwerin



## Julie Schwerin (cont.)

just me without a prefix

life plan the erasure marks

**BIO:** Julie Schwerin (she/her - Greendale, Wisconsin) is an associate editor at *The Heron's Nest* ([www.theheronsnest.com](http://www.theheronsnest.com)) and a member of the Red Moon Anthology Editorial team. She was instrumental in establishing several haiku installations in the Midwest. The most recent is Words in Bloom: A Year of Haiku at the Chicago Botanic Garden which features the work of other poets on signs throughout the garden.

## Petra Schmidt

full moon  
all the years since  
I've been kissed

body shaming  
how long it takes  
the butter to melt

**BIO:** Petra Schmidt lives in Catonsville, Maryland, where she enjoys writing and gardening. She has a daughter, two dogs, and one spoiled cat.

## Mary McCormack

afterward  
resting his hand  
on her naked hip

quiver in my body a dewdrop

**BIO:** Mary McCormack enjoys wandering along forest paths, dreaming up stories. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Modern Haiku*, *Wales Haiku Journal*, *Three Line Poetry*, *Sublunary Review*, and *Gingerbread House*, among others. You can also check out her book *Away from Shore* or follow her on Twitter [@marum\\_cc](https://twitter.com/marum_cc)

## Deborah Karl-Brandt

bank statements  
all the experiences  
I did not have

white outs  
these hidden places  
in her memory

**BIO:** Karl-Brandt, Deborah, \*1981, lives in Bonn with her husband, two rabbits and numerous books. After her PhD studies in Scandinavian literature, she works as a freelance author and poet. Her poems have been published in anthologies, yearbooks, calendars and journals. Recently haiku has appeared in *Chrysanthemum*, *Sommergras* and *#FemkuMag*.

## Anna Cates

meth addict  
with her cardboard sign  
record cold

halfway house  
the help wanted sign  
lingering

**BIO:** Anna Cates lives in Wilmington, Ohio and teaches writing, literature, and education online. Her most recent books include *The Golem & the Nazi* (Red Moon Press) and *The Journey* (Wipf & Stock). She earned her M.A. (English) and Ph.D. (Curriculum & Instruction/English) from Indiana State University and her M.F.A. (Creative Writing) from National University.

# Kristen Lindquist

## Too Late

I hadn't realized how much this would be a matter of faith. By streetlight my knees are eggs. The neighbor's tv flickers behind the blind. I have never seen anything as perfect as my knees. The tequila bottle's empty, but it hasn't made me drunk, and I need that transport. I can't wait any longer for you to come home from her house. The street is a line of soft light, soothing somehow. I can't close my eyes against it.

new moon  
a glow on the horizon  
from a nearby town

## November

Bleak sky, unseasonable cold. The pandemic, and social distancing, continue. As if that, and our crumbling democracy, weren't enough, three friends have cancer, one lost her beloved dog, and another just went through a bad break-up. Thankfully, no snow falling yet...

killing frost  
the sharp thwack  
of a neighbor's axe

## Kristen Lindquist (cont.)

### Arcana

When I took a bath as a child, the gods flashed me secret messages I couldn't understand—reflected hieroglyphics made by the interplay of the bathroom light, the tub's white porcelain, and the surface of the water stirred by my breathing, my small legs. My body absorbed those shifting signs that disappeared with each movement, their meanings muted the moment I stepped out of the water. I carry them still.

mysteries of the flesh  
wanting to touch  
her owl tattoo

**BIO:** Kristen Lindquist is a writer and naturalist who lives on the coast of Maine. Her haiku chapbook *IT ALWAYS COMES BACK*, winner of the 2020 Snapshot Press e-Chapbook Award, will be published in spring 2021.

# Laurie Greer

questioning the marriage  
the third degree  
of separation

expanding universe  
the pressure  
to downsize

cul de sac  
off a cul de sac  
PTSD spiral

**BIO:** Laurie Greer writes, walks, and sells books in Washington, DC, sharing a space with Pangur Ban, a cat who has her own Wikipedia page.

# Marilyn Ashbaugh

## The Final Taboo

I like things close, even death. Holding a hand or massaging a foot is part of my process of saying goodbye.

Organ donation brings a vise-grip of denial. The lull of rhythmic machines that pump and breathe makes a loved one appear asleep . . .until the heart beats in another's chest, the kidneys flush clean someone else's waste, and the eyes open to a distant shore.

But a plague death encases heart and mind in a shroud of personal protection, in the myth of safe distance.

one among many winter violets

## Marilyn Ashbaugh (cont.)

### Day of the Dead

A visit to Tucson is not complete unless we dine at our favorite Mexican restaurant. A tiny place located near a cemetery, the fresh, big-flavored food is well worth the wait so all are patient. Except for one evening when a singing and dancing crowd spills out of the cemetery, ignores the line, and snakes into the restaurant. White skeletons adorn black shirts and dresses. The women and some men wear brightly painted sugar skulls around their necks; some smaller skulls dangle from ears and wrists producing a mood mix of horror and glee.

shrine to a sinner  
another candle  
beneath the cross

**BIO:** Marilyn Ashbaugh is a poet, nature photographer and organic gardener. She is widely published in journals and anthologies featuring Japanese short-form poetry including haibun, haiga, renga, tanka, and haiku.

# Hifsa Ashraf

## Child Bride

cold snap buried the unfurled crocuses alive

her braided hair the labyrinth of family tradition

hoarfrost carved a budding rose her wedding gown

her nose pin a crescent moon in the hazy sky

cold wind chimes her bangles

dust out of cocoon the wingless butterfly

rouged cheeks of a teen girl tangerine sky

twilight murmuration summed up her freewill

her crimson silhouette on the aisle fallen rose petals

**BIO:** Hifsa Ashraf lives in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. She is an award-winning poet, author, editor, and social activist. Please visit her blog to view her published work at [hifsays.blogspot.com](http://hifsays.blogspot.com) or follow her on twitter at [@hifsays](https://twitter.com/hifsays).

## Barrie Levine

too depressed  
to not want  
to be depressed

highway argument the terrifying speed of his anger

browning daffodils—  
he loses interest  
in a matter of weeks

old feminist  
fervor flowing  
in her blood

**BIO:** Barrie Levine relocated from New Jersey to the Boston area and practiced family law, concentrating on representing women, from 1973 to 2014. She is 76 and began writing haiku after caregiving for and then losing her husband and mother in the same horrible year. Joining the haiku community has been a life-affirming experience for Barrie.

## Susan Burch

on my birthday  
I'm tickled pink -  
cock ring

sybian  
taking pleasure  
in my own company

## Susan Burch and *Tia Haynes*

### School Spirit

new lab partner  
the chemistry  
between us

*xoxo on  
faded jeans*

dead frogs  
dissecting his every  
word

*un, deux, trois  
a fresh coat of  
berry lip gloss*

protractor  
he flexes his bicep

*behind the bleachers  
more than they  
bargained for*

**BIO:** Susan Burch is a good egg.

# Tia Haynes

## The Nature of Things

If my mother knew the names of trees, she did not teach them to me. If she knew the ways of the fox or the hare, it was forgotten. Yet, under the Brahms and the Tchaikovsky, I always knew there was the rush of the river and the rage of the wind.

final days  
a prayer left  
in the woods

**BIO:** Tia Haynes is the current editor of *Prune Juice Journal*. Along with traditional publication, her haiku have been on public display on the streets of Washington D.C., the Holden Arboretum Haiku Path in Kirtland, Ohio, and soon-to-be in the Chicago Botanic Garden. She lives in Lakewood, Ohio with her family and cat, Sebastian.

## Vandana Parashar

dementors  
the way they say I am  
“just a housewife”

your indifference  
I feel a lump  
in my breast

red-pencil re-examining your intentions

**BIO:** Vandana Parashar is a microbiologist, a teacher and a haiku enthusiast whose work has been published in many national and international journals of repute, and has won her prizes and accolades. Her debut e-chapbook *I Am* has been published by Title IX Press.

# Louise Hopewell

all the chips  
in the chinaware  
family lunch

you reach  
for my hand  
One Tree Hill

reading  
his letter  
paper cut

**BIO:** Louise Hopewell is an Australian poet, playwright and songwriter. When not writing, Louise can be found riding her bicycle or playing ukulele (but not at the same time).

## Mia Indigo

cuffing season  
my final offer  
for first dibs

missing period her run-on sentence

to another lover  
I transmit a sexual  
technique

love nest  
my bush trimmings  
left for birds

**BIO:** Mia Indigo writes haiku and engages in practices in the White Tigress tradition as part of her lifelong pursuit of a degree in Surrender Studies.

# Helen Ogden

Women's Day  
I order ribs  
from the pitmaster

double dog dare  
the children  
I never had

fertility clinic  
all her eggs  
in one basket

masking ordinance  
my sagging jowls  
forgotten for now

**BIO:** Helen Ogden's sporadic interest in haiku became an obsession as the pandemic forced her to slow down and take closer note of her immediate surroundings. Making up for lost time she has been published in a number of journals and was recently awarded first place in the San Francisco International Haiku/Senryu/Tanka Contest.

## Maya Daneva

mossy moon  
his hand in the shadow  
of my velvet robe

a date  
in the zen garden  
his little Buddha belly

he breaks her hand Venus of Milos

correcting my lipstick three-layer mask

**BIO:** Maya Daneva is a Software Engineering scholar and a Board Member of the female faculty network in a Dutch university. She developed her passion for haiku as a way to cope with grief after the death of her mother. Her work appeared in *Cold Moon Journal* and *Tsuri-doro*. This is her debut in *#FemkuMag*.

## Ana Drobot

flood. . .  
she shows me  
her lotus feet

first dose—  
I am allowed  
to visit you

**BIO:** Ana Drobot was born in 1983, in Bucharest, Romania. She has been present in Haiku EuroTop, the top of the most creative haiku authors, during 2015-2020.

# Kat Lehmann

## Raining Daze

I cry more over good news than bad news these days. What does that say about the status of my heart?

stained glass leaves  
the way the sky shatters  
as it falls

## Kat Lehmann and *GRIX*

### Subculture Serenade

kettle of hawks  
a slo-mo mosh  
thrashes the sky

*headbanging beats  
woodpecker deejay*

badass blue jay  
whips it good  
in a flat field

*transmission tower—  
turkey vultures  
poised to tear*

pretty vacant  
another poseur crow

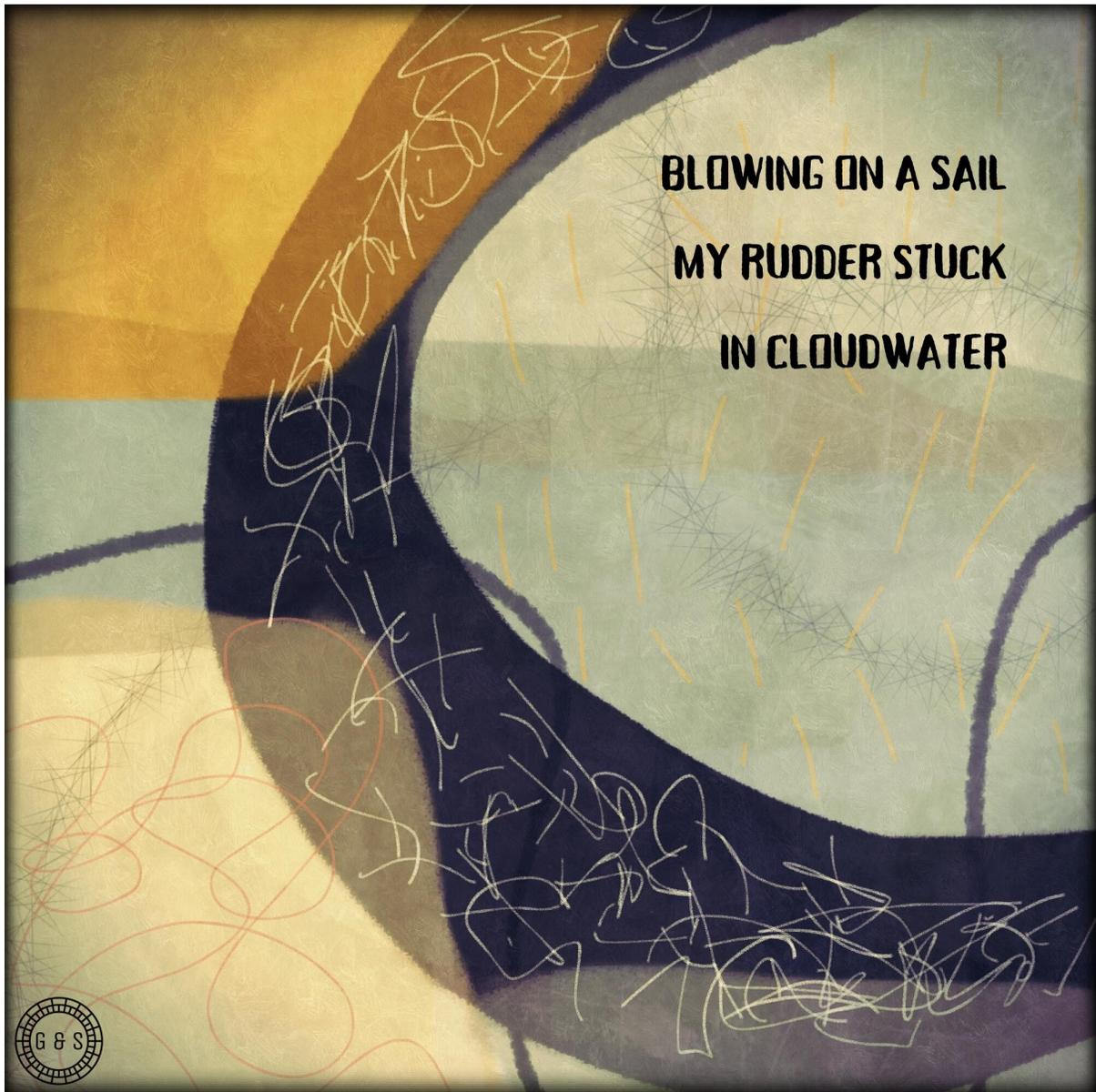
*after the rain . . .  
every robin's  
blitzkrieg bop*

**BIO:** Kat Lehmann is an award-winning Connecticut poet and scientist who lives next to a fairy forest. A Best of the Net nominee, her poems have been recognized in the HSA Harold G. Henderson Haiku Award and Japan's ITO EN Oi Ocha Shinhaiku. Her haibun collection is *Stumbling Toward Happiness*. Twitter: [@SongsOfKat](https://twitter.com/SongsOfKat)

GRIX and Shloka Shankar



## GRIX and Shloka Shankar (cont.)



**BIO:** When not duking it out with faulty autonomics and a spine that belongs in circus sideshow, GRIX lies in bed, dreaming up ways to preserve their head in a jar and communicate telepathically via Ouija board.

## GRIX and Shloka Shankar (cont.)



ketamine  
mindbath  
I slip into  
something more  
numbfortable

**BIO:** Shloka Shankar is a poet and visual artist from Bangalore, India. A Best of the Net nominee and award-winning haiku poet, her work has most recently appeared in *Prune Juice*, *hushlit: a journal of noise*, *Unlost Journal*, *Rigorous*, and elsewhere. Shloka is the Founding Editor of *Sonic Boom* and Yavanika Press.

## Sandi Pray

old woman  
the shape of night  
becomes her

my long hair  
willow branches  
in the wind

**BIO:** Sandi Pray is a retired high school librarian living a quiet vegan life in the wilds of the North Carolina mountains and river marshes of North Florida. <http://ravenciffs.com>

## Maria Concetta Conti

her smile  
next to mine  
end of winter

thick fog  
she doesn't know  
what love is

**BIO:** Maria Concetta Conti lives in Catania, where she graduated in Philosophy. She teaches Italian literature in a Secondary school. Her work has appeared in numerous international magazines.

## Marilyn Humbert

lockdown days  
his Hawaiian shirt  
unbuttoned

pearled in rime  
my husband's smile  
of forgiveness

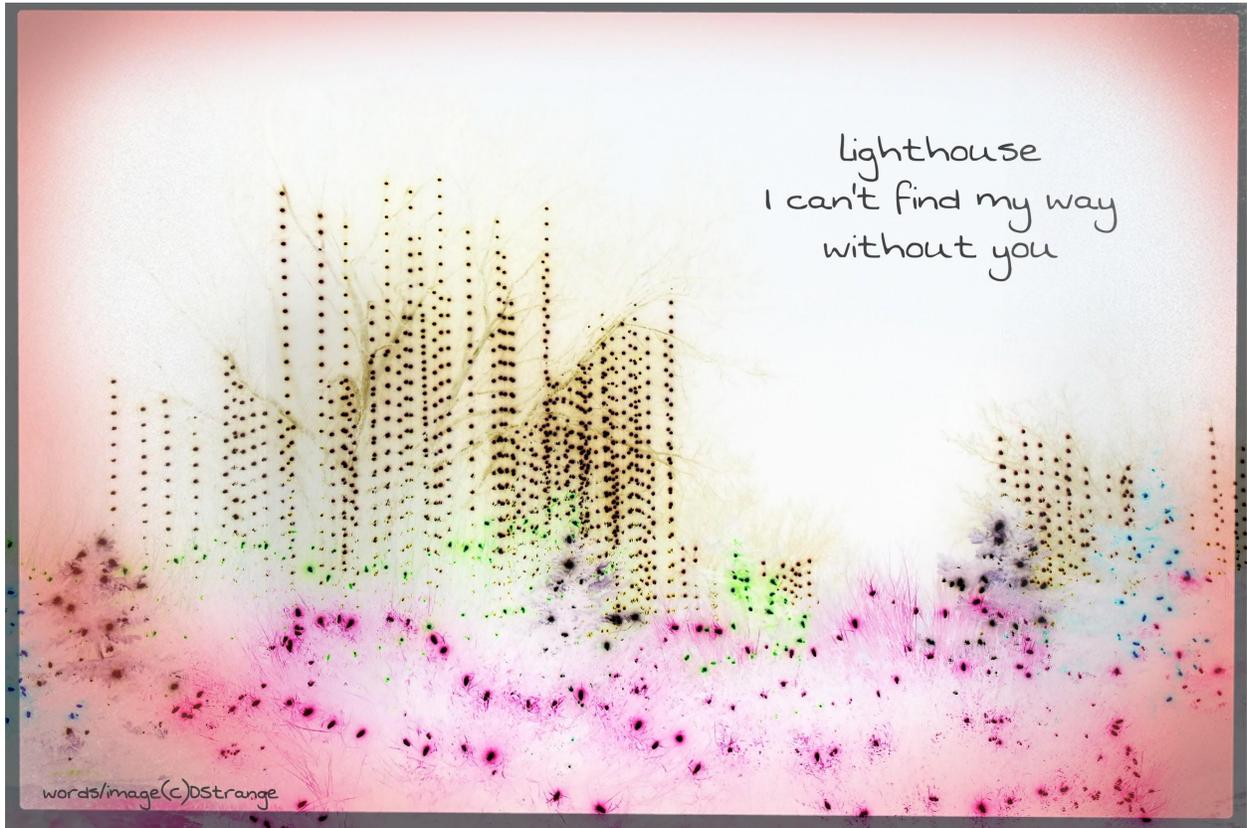
**BIO:** Marilyn Humbert lives in Sydney NSW Australia. Her tanka and haiku appear in international and Australian journals, anthologies and online. Her free verse poems have been awarded prizes in competitions, published online, in anthologies and journals most recently *Black Bough Deep Time 2*, *Poetry d'Amour Love Anthology 2020*, and *FemAsia Magazine*.

## Tsanka Shishkova

abandoned home  
but swallows  
in their nests

**BIO:** Tsanka Shishkova has publications in *The Asahi Shimbun*, *ESUJ-H English Haiku*, *NHK*, *Stardust Haiku*, *THF*, *The Mainichi*, *Under the Basho*, *Failed Haiku*, *The Mamba*, *WHA*- Category: Haiga, etc. She was elected to the Euro Top 100 Most Creative Haiku Authors in 2017 - 2020. *Crane Feather* is her book in English/Bulgarian.

# Debbie Strange



## Debbie Strange (cont.)



**BIO:** Debbie Strange is an internationally published short-form poet, haiga artist, and photographer, whose creative passions connect her more closely to the world and to herself. Her most recent book is *The Language of Loss: Haiku & Tanka Conversations*, the winner of the 2019 Sable Books International Women's Haiku Contest. <https://debbiemstrange.blogspot.com>

## Marietta McGregor

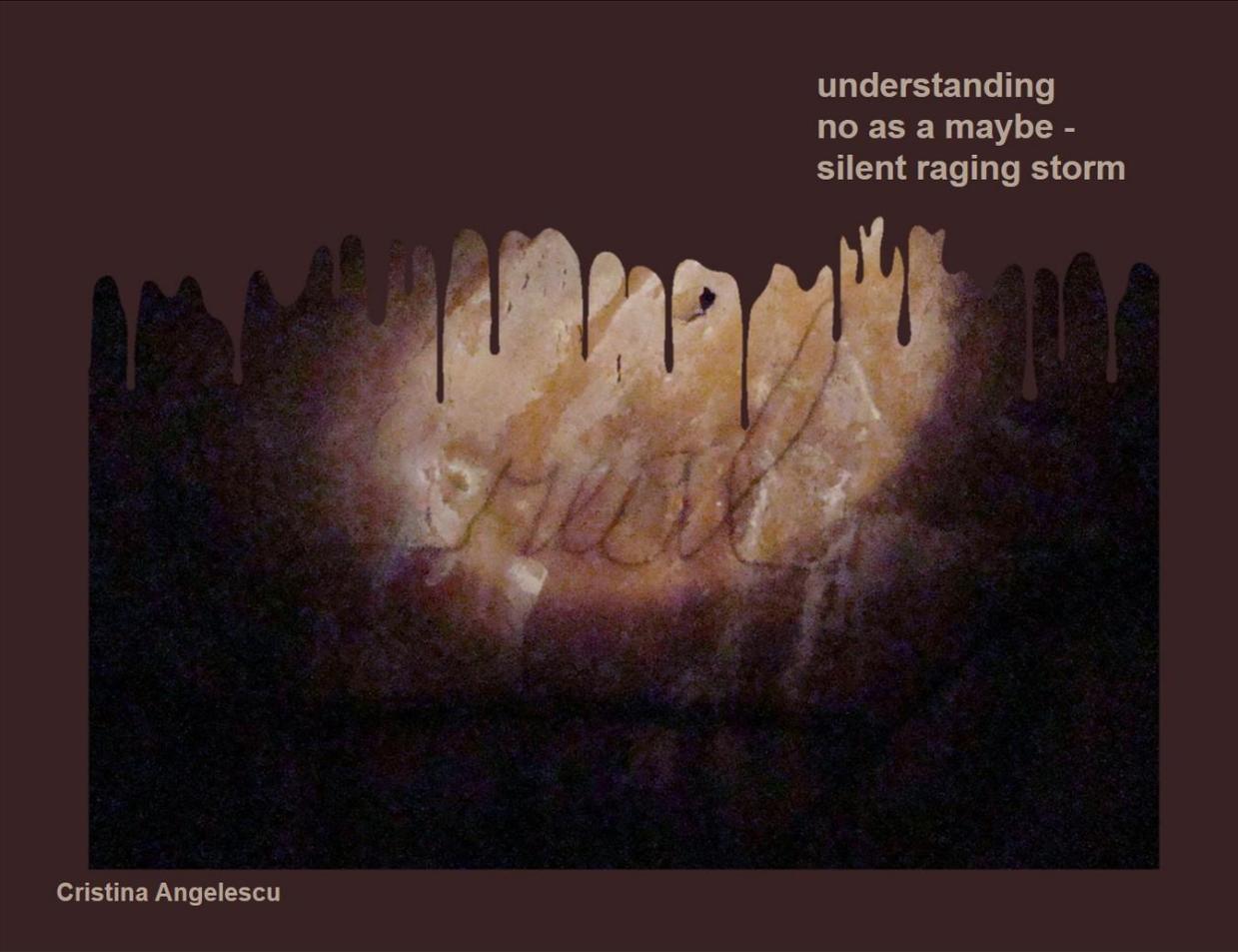
### Off road

Someone tunes the wireless to a Wellington radio station. A young Tasmanian woman has been found dead beside a lonely stretch of highway along the west coast. She was on a hitchhiking holiday same as we are. Maybe we met her somewhere. The fuggy air is sharp with crushed kiwi vine sap on bootsoles. Night creatures clip-clop through the roof space like heartbeats run amok. Full moon shadows strap us to our bunks. Rucksacks slump into troll shapes. No-one sleeps much. Next day, the hostel manager cautions us to stick together. He snorts, "Silly tart hitching solo!" The night-time roof racket was probably brush-tailed possums, but could have been rats.

grieving a friendship grey ash

**BIO:** Botanist and journalist Marietta McGregor is an enthusiast photographer and widely published haiku poet, with work featured in Red Moon and other anthologies. Her awards include first in the Irish Haiku Society's Contest, 2020; first and runner-up the British Haibun Awards, 2019; and first in UHTS's Samurai Haibun Contest, 2019.

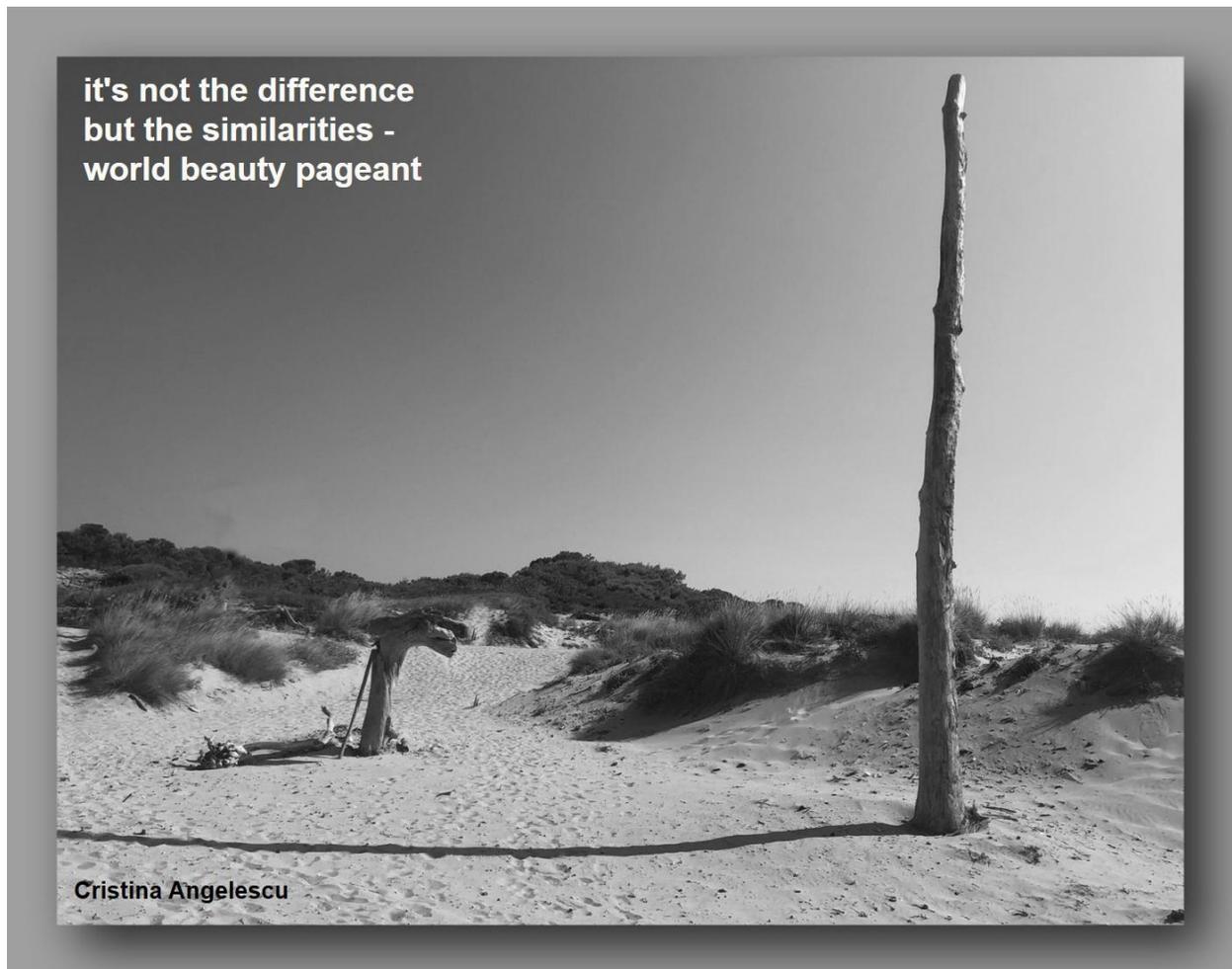
Cristina Angelescu



understanding  
no as a maybe -  
silent raging storm

Cristina Angelescu

## Cristina Angelescu (cont.)



**BIO:** Cristina Angelescu is just a person searching for a meaning.

## Helen Buckingham

morning walk  
time to catch up  
with my mojo

sweet home is where the drugs are

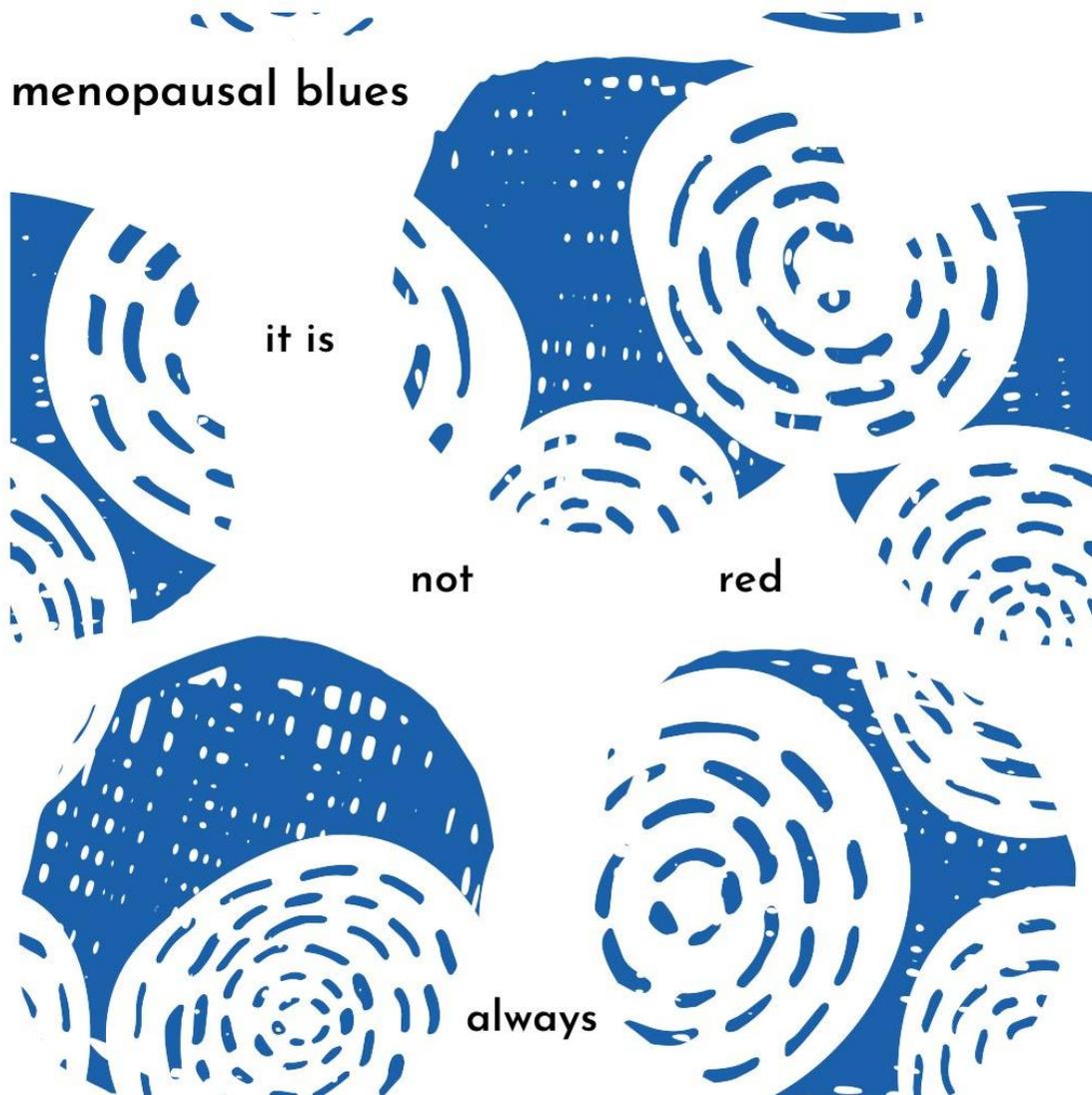
**BIO:** Helen Buckingham lives in Wells, England. Her work appears regularly in journals such as *Bones*, *is/let*, and *Modern Haiku*. Anthologies include: *Haiku in English* (Norton, 2013). Among her collections are: *water on the moon* (Original Plus, 2010) and *sanguinella* (Red Moon, 2017), each of which was shortlisted for a Touchstone Award.

# Lisa Espenmiller

playing in the desert  
masturbation  
after 50

**BIO:** Lisa Espenmiller is a poet and visual artist living in Oakland, California, USA. Her poetry has been widely published in online and print journals including *Modern Haiku*, *is/let*, *bones*, *#FemkuMag*, *Wales Haiku*, *Chrysanthemum*, *Presence*, *bottle rockets*, *Under the Bashō*, *Otata*, *Akitsu Quarterly* (forthcoming), and others.  
[www.espenmiller.com](http://www.espenmiller.com)

# Teji Sethi



**BIO:** Teji is a nutritionist, researcher, poet and a visual artist. She believes that a rich tapestry of experiences lives within us as stories and these stories define us, connect us and outlive us when we are gone!

# Ingrid Bruck

wind chimes  
the sound  
still moving

**BIO:** Ingrid Bruck lives in Pennsylvania Amish country, a landscape that inhabits her poetry. She's a retired library director with a passion for short forms. Current work appears in Halibut, Failed Haiku and Quatrain.Fish. Poetry website: [www.ingridbruck.com](http://www.ingridbruck.com)

## Kath Abela Wilson

children of the world  
how mom dressed me  
in all the costumes

**BIO:** Kath Abela Wilson lives in Pasadena, California. She hosts three poetry zoom meetings a week for consolation inspiration and community in the pandemic, welcoming international and local poets in a supportive consortium. She creates a short form poetic anthology on themes of resilience every two weeks for [Coloradoblvd.net](http://Coloradoblvd.net)

# Kelly Sauvage

## Nectar

On Bumble, there are three options to the question of how one prefers to approach dating during COVID—social distancing, social distancing with a mask and virtual. The afternoon I responded to her initial message, I figured Why not? Sure, we could have fun eating pizza together over social media, just like the couple in the commercial for what, I don't remember. You know, the one where the dude suddenly appreciates pineapple? Yet, several hundred messages in, once we'd covered the traumas, the hopes, the dreams and she'd begun calling me her sweetheart, scientists deemed the new variant more deadly than the last.

The weeks pass, and tonight I am not only tired but lonely. As I dampen my fingers from the bottle on the nightstand, I conjure what I imagine might be her scent, what playlist she'll call up on Spotify. Resting the heel of my hand upon my pubic symphysis, I grind against the day's growth of stubble and imagine her smile as our flight departs for Australia in the fall, god willing. On the cusp of orgasm, I insert a third finger and can't help but to wonder what exactly will beat us to our happily-ever-after and prepare myself for the day she tells me the cancer has come back.

cut-glass vase  
a nip of frost  
on the flowers

**BIO:** Kelly Sauvage spends her lucid moments seeking freedom. After clawing her way through yet another day of misogynistic, heteronormative bullshit, she finds respite in segment-hiking the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and immersing herself in identity-affirming smut.

## Mary Stevens

open marriage  
a canary feather  
on the cat's cheek

passing train  
the impact  
of his afterthought

lit within the pumpkin on her maternity shirt

**BIO:** Mary Stevens loves getting down to the essence of things: to find meaning and beauty in nature, haiku, and dance—in particular Authentic Movement, a long-time embodied expressive movement practice she does in a community of women. She currently lives on the New Jersey-Massachusetts cyberborder.

## Arvinder Kaur

unswept yard. . .  
this sense of life  
passing by

bloodstains—  
grandma tells me  
to grin and bear it

**BIO:** Arvinder Kaur has taught English Literature and Media Studies to students at graduation and post graduation level. Her haiku have appeared in leading print and online haiku journals including *The Heron's Nest*, *Frogpond*, and *Modern Haiku*. She has two books of haiku to her credit. She introduced cherita to vernacular writers by translating ai li's cherita into Hindi and Punjabi.

## Nancy Brady

the scars  
no one can see  
damaged pistil

**BIO:** Nancy Brady is a pharmacist by vocation and a poet by avocation, focusing mainly on haiku or senryu (although she admits that she hasn't figured out which is which). She likes to escape from the realities of life by reading spicy romances and spine-tingling thrillers

## Antoinette Cheung

non-binary  
their body more  
than zeroes and ones

IVF clinic  
deciding between  
your womb or mine

prom night  
he slips  
into mother's pearls

flickers of light  
the rhythm  
of her back tattoo

**BIO:** Antoinette Cheung is a member of the Vancouver Haiku Group in Canada and participant of the Haiku Society of America's inaugural 40 under 40 mentorship program. She draws inspiration from the meditative quality of haiku and its capacity to create harmony and connection with nature, as well as the opportunity to inhabit the experiences of others.

## Jacquie Pearce

vigil of light  
a candle for every  
murdered woman

broken china  
what I don't want to pass down  
to my daughter

**BIO:** Jacquie Pearce is a haiku poet and children's book author writing from the west coast of Canada. Her poems have appeared in a variety of publications, including *A New Resonance 11* (Red Moon 2019) and *Last Train Home, an anthology of haiku, tanka, and rengay* edited by Jacquie (Pondhawk 2021).

# Eva Limbach

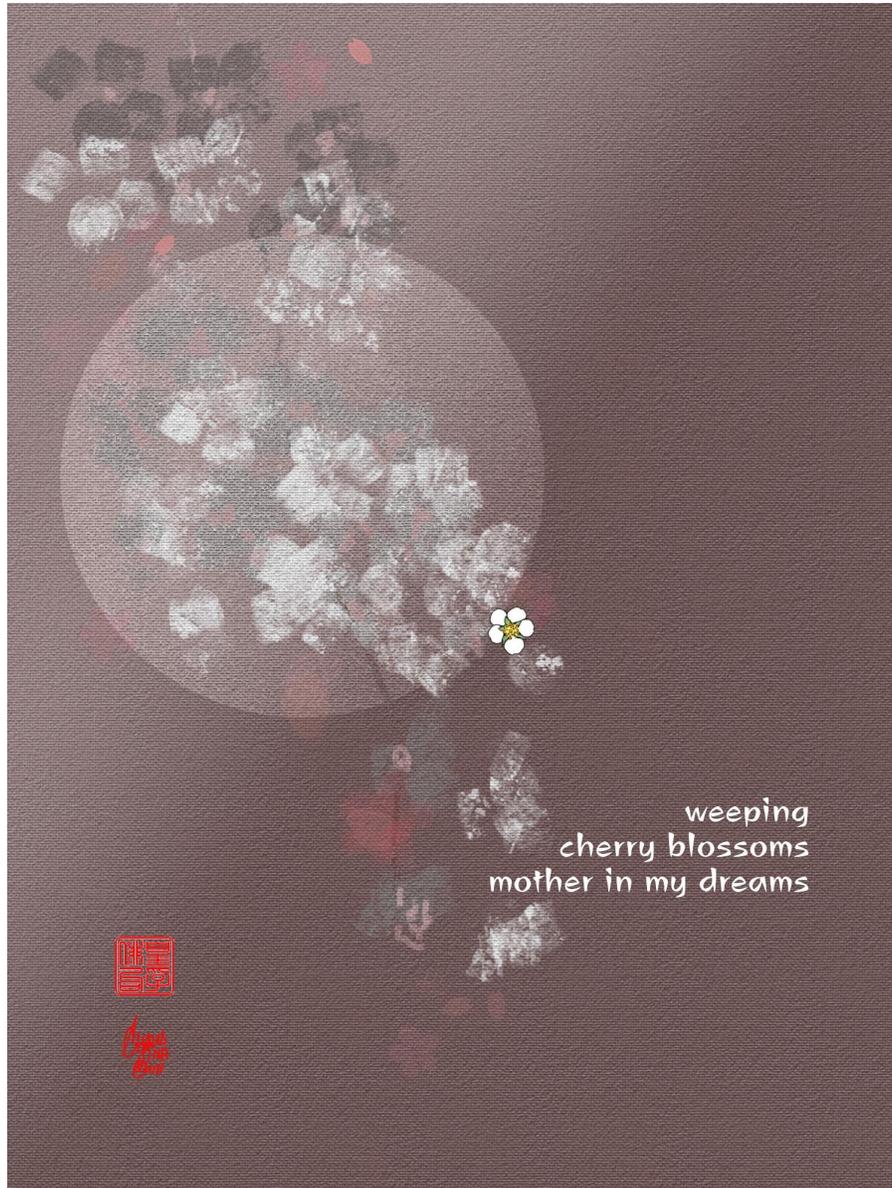
women's rights

I correct

another typo

**BIO:** Eva-Maria Limbach lives in Saarbrücken, a German town near the French border, with her husband and her dog. She works as a pharmacist. Since 2012 she has been writing haiku, senryu and sometimes haibun.

## Christina Chin



**BIO:** Christina Chin is a painter and haiku poet. Four-time top 100 artist of mDAC Summit. Won two City Soka Saitama's 2020 haiku prizes. She is 1st place winner in the 34th Annual Cherry Blossom Sakura Festival 2020 Contest. Her photo-haiku won 1st prize in the 8th Setouchi Matsuyama 2019 Contest. She is published in journals and anthologies.

## Pat Davis

the fight for respect  
feeling my dot  
on the timeline

man and woman  
the debatable worth  
of Eden

**BIO:** Pat Davis is an artist, published poet, parent, and retired elementary school teacher. She is a lifelong learner who is open to new ideas. She values the natural environment, family, friendship, and a good laugh.

Susan Mallernee



mother`s day

*Susan Mallernee*

another

forced bloom

## Susan Mallernee (cont.)

Christmas depression  
my father gifts me  
a box of band aids

branding her a socialist  
he ends  
their one term marriage

rubber ducky  
beneath the bubbles  
our hands meet

**BIO:** Susan Mallernee is an artist and haiku poet. Her work has appeared in journals such as *Frogpond*, *The Heron's Nest*, and *Sonic Boom*. Most recently Susan's haiku was chosen, along with others, for The Golden Triangle Haiku Display in Washington D.C.

## Wanda Amos

slip sliding away  
the icy wreckage  
of too many years

**BIO:** Wanda Amos lives by the beach on the east coast of Australia. She has an interest in Haiku and Photography - the connection between the capture of that moment in words or pixels has always been a fascination.

## Réka Nyitrai

night flower an embryo into her

**BIO:** Réka Nyitrai, currently living in Bucharest, Romania, was born in Transylvania and studied communications and political marketing. Her work has been published in *Under the Basho*, *Otata*, *Bones*, *Modern Haiku*, *Frogpond*, and *The Heron's Nest*. Her debut haiku collection *While dreaming your dreams* (MONO YA MONO BOOKS) was published during the pandemic of 2020.

## Lorraine A. Padden

another Sunday  
without a Bible  
unbroken snow

dying swan  
the five o'clock shadow  
under her arms

**BIO:** Lorraine A. Padden is a contemporary haiku/senryu poet whose work has been featured in journals including *Modern Haiku*, *frogpond*, *tinywords*, and *Kingfisher*, among others. She recently won Tricycle Magazine's Best of the Haiku Challenge for February, 2021. Commentary on her work will be featured in an article for the print issue of Tricycle due out this summer.

## Lucia Cardillo

low spring tide. . .  
something about me  
that I had forgotten

bassa marea primaverile. . .  
qualcosa di me  
che avevo dimenticato

**BIO:** Lucia Cardillo has been writing haiku and senryu since 2016. Her poems have been published online and in printed magazines all over the world. She is listed on The European Top 100 Haiku Authors and has received awards.

## Nadejda Kostadinova

selfie after selfie  
the newsfeed full with  
empty looks

middle age  
learning from  
the cat

**BIO:** Nadejda Kostadinova lives in Sofia, Bulgaria. Her work has been published in various printed and online magazines including *Asahi Haikuist Network*, *ESUJ*, *Frogpond*, *Prune Juice*, *Hedgerow*, *Cattails*, *Tinywords*, *Under the Basho*, *Modern Haiku*, *Failed Haiku* and others. She has been awarded a couple of honorable mentions and prizes in competitions.

## Sarah Metzler

neighborhood snow melting the barriers

no quarters  
for the tampon dispenser  
blood moon

shot glass dive bar flies belly up

snow accumulating angels, devils, and men

**BIO:** Sarah Metzler is a counselor and poet who enjoys finding cash in coat pockets and purses. She lives in Pennsylvania with her husband, dog, cat, and chickens. Sarah is thrilled to have been published next to admired poets and mentors in leading haiku and senryu journals and anthologies.

## Bhawana Rathore

moonlit lake  
the comfort of  
being myself

ripples. . .  
how predictable  
the world has become

as if they know  
all my thoughts. . .  
cicadas

**BIO:** Bhawana Rathore is a student, interested in anthropology, genetics and literature. She dedicates her poetry to her late grandmother. Her work, so far, has been published in *Bones*, *Cattails*, *Under the Basho*, *Prune Juice* and *Poetry Pea*.

## Kimberly Dawn

supernova: his gaslighting extinguished

spring equinox  
pulling the trigger  
she takes back her power

**BIO:** Kimberly Dawn is a constant work in progress, continuously evolving in her personal and creative life. She is a poetess of many platforms including haiku, haibun, blackout, elfchen and more. You can find more of her work on Instagram [@rockport\\_press](https://www.instagram.com/rockport_press) ❤️

## Hazel Hall

scrape the dregs  
and wash out the tin —  
rancid spam  
that women have dealt with  
for centuries

**BIO:** Hazel Hall is a widely published Australian poet and musicologist. Her most recent collections are *Step by Step*, haiku with tai chi master Angie Egan (Picaro Poets 2019), *Moonlight Over the Siding* (Interactive Press 2019), and *Severed Web*, haiku with Australian artist Deborah Faeyrglenn (Picaro Poets 2020). Her verse drama *Please Add Your Signature and Date it Here* is forthcoming.

## Maeve O'Sullivan

we embrace under the clock tower waxing snow moon

**BIO:** Maeve O'Sullivan works in further education in Dublin. Her poetry and haikai have been widely published and anthologised. She is the author of four collections from Alba Publishing, with a fifth forthcoming in 2021. Maeve is a founder member of Haiku Ireland, leads workshops in haiku, and reviews for various journals. Twitter [@writefromwithin](https://twitter.com/writefromwithin)

# Kamrun Nahar

## Big Surprises

Grandma could only visit a few days once or twice a year so my sister and I never missed a chance to snuggle next to her in bed. We'd listen to her narrate stories of the prophets of Islam and I'd always persuade her to tell the story of Noah and the Ark again and again.

Noah saved all the creatures on earth from that storm, keeping one pair of each type of animal on a gigantic ship. It was the most amazing story! I would ask her repeatedly where the animals slept, what they ate and how they survived.

pandemic  
I long for a way  
to save the earth

**BIO:** Kamrun Nahar works as a creative writer. Her Haiku is published under *UTB journal*, *Cafe Haiku Journal*, *Failed Haiku*, *Cold Moon Journal*. In 2020 one of her poems was published in the international anthology *Pandemic Poetry 2020*.

## R. Sunanda Chowdhury

among flowers. . .  
herds of workers  
pleasing the queen

**BIO:** Mrs. R. Sunanda Chowdhury is 43 yrs old and a freelance consultant (development Sector), poet, and writer. She has done M, Phil in Philosophy.

## Deborah P Kolodji

no Richter Scale  
to measure it  
this rift between us

bear hibernation  
the world inside  
this hospital room

house finches  
at the feeder  
cancer support group

**BIO:** Deborah P Kolodji is the California Regional Coordinator for the Haiku Society of America. Author of 1000 published poems, her first full length book of haiku, *highway of sleeping towns*, won a Touchstone Distinguished Book Award. Watch for her upcoming e-chapbook, *tug of a black hole*, with Title IX press.

## Lisa Anne Johnson

### By the Garden Gate

“I like the idea of your haiku”, says the white male editor of the prestigious haiku journal, “but I think it could be improved with a more descriptive first line, something like ‘fat frog’ or ‘large rat’. Please let me know if one of these or something else that would paint a better picture for the reader would work for you.” My heart sinks and my eyes roll. The poem is over his head, or perhaps under it. He hasn’t understood it because he is the snake in the poem. The haiku is meant to express awe at the ability of those with an excess of privilege and power to always figure out some method to almost magically expand and swallow up ever more. He thinks it is just literally about a snake and a cute pun. He has missed the point.

oversized portion  
the snake  
comes unhinged

Of course, I can’t tell him this. It’s not wise to perturb a snake, even one that is just lying casually in your path. It may not end well for me. I cannot suggest that he might not be perceiving other meanings because of who he is, or isn’t. I open my laptop and search for the journal website. Seven out of eight of the “officers” of this journal’s group are white men. The eighth, of course, being the obligatory woman “secretary” doing the dirty work, I suspect. I worry that this snake might come unhinged at the very suggestion that perhaps his society and journal could use some real diversification and a wider perspective. So I try a different tactic; “I was able to paint images in your mind of both ‘frog’ and ‘rat’ without using either

word,” I suggest. Perhaps I can appeal to his sense of artistry. It doesn’t work. “I admire you for sticking to your wording”, he says, condescendingly appreciating my pluck, “but I disagree and will not accept your poem as it is. Best of luck placing your poem elsewhere.” He has spoken. I am dismissed. I decide to respond to him with a haiku. Perhaps “the reader” will find this one “more descriptive”.

inevitably  
by the garden gate  
white narcissus

**BIO:** Lisa is a retired experimental biologist, a feminist, and a “Mother of Bunnies” (as well as a couple of humans). When she is not wielding her “Blue Wand of Justice”, <https://www.millerparkfriends.org/stewards>, she is an occasional haiku poet. Her work has been published in *Frogpond*, *The Mainichi*, *Modern Haiku*, and *#FemkuMag*.

## New from Title IX Press

*Unfinished Conversations* by Anne Curran

"I have watched Anne Curran's skill with, and passion for, Japanese short-form poetry expand and deepen over the last decade. It has been a joy to come across her work in various publications and a pleasure to read her first collection now. *Unfinished Conversations* made me stop and reflect on my own life: what was said, what was done, or, in both cases, what wasn't. These tanka are relatable and accessible with imagery and connections that house a subtle power; poems that will stay with you long after reading."

—Kirsten Cliff Elliot,  
author of *Patient Property: a journey through leukemia*

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