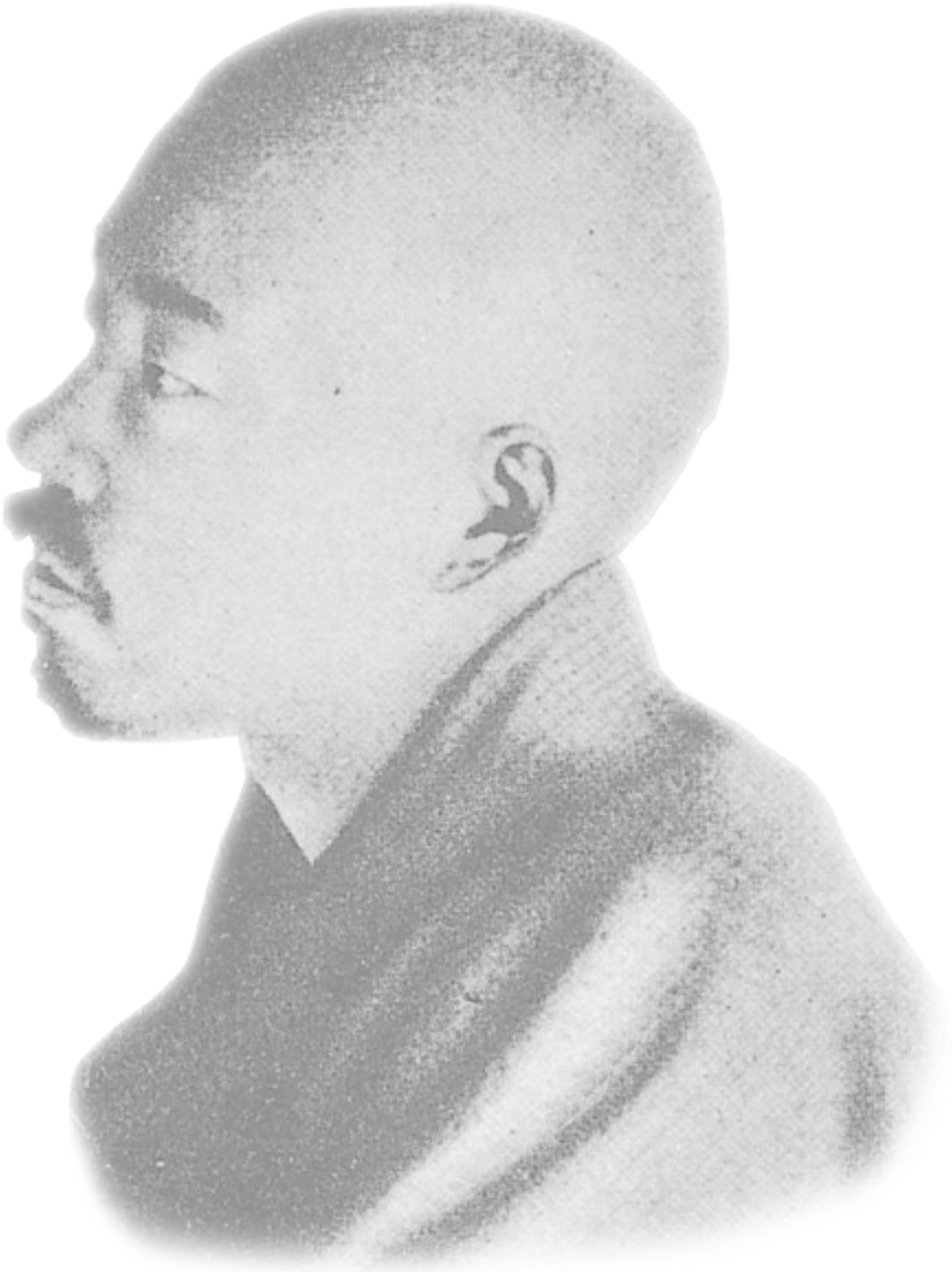

folk ku
issue 7
民句

folk ku

民句

a journal in honour of Master Masaoka Shiki(1867－1902)



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895.61 Japanese poetry translation

Selected Introduction References

Florence Du Cane & Ella Du Cane, *The Flowers and Gardens of Japan* (London: Adam and Charles Black, 1908)

Australian Dictionary of Biography, "Sir Charles Du Cane (1825–1889)"

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folk ku

民句



Issue

7

welcome to Issue 7 of *民句 folk ku* journal

民句 *folk ku* journal is dedicated to the founder of modern haiku, Master Masaoka Shiki. Each issue features a selection of his haiku and translations alongside contemporary works inspired by his first principle – *shasei* 寫生 （sketches from life). Accordingly, the haiku, senryu and tanka within the pages of 民句 *folk ku* journal are informed by real-life experiences.

Following on from *Issue 5: water* and *6: trees* we thought we'd take a short break from themed issues and leave the options open for your faves. 民句 *folk ku* Issue 7 showcases more than 250 special folk memories from contributors around the world; this time we added an extra three countries to our growing list – Denmark, Norway and United Arab Emirates. Huge thank you and congrats to our talented *folk-kuers* from more than 20 countries and territories.

The 30+ English translations of Shiki's poems were accessed (in Japanese) from The Matsuyama Shiki Memorial Museum 松山市立子規記念博物館 database; these are woven throughout the text to sit alongside the *folk ku* of our contributors. We are extremely grateful for the use of this extraordinary and free to access public library.

An iris, a garden, a moment

This issue begins with an iris. The images on the front and back covers comes from *The Flowers and Gardens of Japan*, published in Soho Square, London, in 1908. The paintings were made by Ella Du Cane; the words were written by her sister Florence. Together, they recorded the gardens, flowers and places they encountered in Japan, turning their travels into something that could be carried home and remembered. There is something fitting about beginning our journey here, because *shasei* has always been concerned with the act of noticing: a flower, a garden, a sound, a season, a fleeting moment.

The story behind the cover images begins far from Japan and shares a history with *folk ku's* homestate. Ella Du Cane was born in Hobart, Tasmania, in 1874, during the final year of her father's governorship of Tasmania. Her sister Florence was born in Hobart five years earlier, in 1869. After their father, Sir Charles Du Cane, completed his term as Governor, the family returned to England, where the girls grew up at Braxted Park in Essex. The family were wealthy and privileged, and the girls' education was largely private, with a governess and the gardens and landscape around them becoming an important part of Ella's artistic world.

The Du Canes themselves came from a Huguenot family, descended from Protestant refugees who had settled in England after fleeing religious persecution in continental Europe. That history formed part of the family's longer story of movement across countries and generations. The sisters would continue that tradition in their own way, travelling widely and making observations of other places central to their lives and work.

Ella became a watercolour painter, while Florence wrote about the places they encountered. Their Japan travel book brought these two forms of observation together: Ella's paintings and Florence's descriptions. The result was not simply a record of travel, but a way of preserving places, flowers and moments so that they could be remembered by people who had been there, and imagined by those who had not.

The illustrations are strikingly specific: not simply "an iris" or a "garden", but *Irises, Horikiri*, *Wistaria, Kameido*, *Lotus at Kodaiji*, *Cherry Blossom, Chion-in Temple*, *Lilies on the Rocks, Atami*, *Pine-tree at Matsushima*. The sisters were recording particular places and encounters. And like *folk ku* journal, the Du Cane sisters' *The Flowers and Gardens of Japan* also travelled around the world, with agents distributing it through publishing offices in New York, Melbourne, Toronto and Calcutta.

Ella's approach to painting also belonged to a wider nineteenth-century movement towards observing and recording the world directly. Realist artists increasingly turned their attention towards ordinary people, places and everyday life, looking closely at what was actually there rather than idealising their subjects. Ella's watercolours were very different from the work of the European realist painters, but her attention to particular places, flowers, landscapes and moments belongs to this broader culture of close observation.

Painting the particular

Around this same time, Master Masaoka Shiki was doing something similar in a very different setting with Japanese verse. Shiki was born in Matsuyama in 1867, seven years before Ella Du Cane, and died in 1902, at only thirty-four. Shiki came from a low-ranking samurai family with generations of service

to the Matsuyama domain, and his early education combined traditional Confucian learning with the new schools of the Meiji era. He later continued his studies in Tokyo, although increasing illness would shape much of his short life. During the 1890s he became one of the great reformers of Japanese haiku, arguing for a poetry grounded in observation of the world as it was actually seen. His idea of *shasei* encouraged poets to look closely at the ordinary world and record what they encountered.

Florence wrote about places. Ella painted them. Shiki turned places and passing moments into *shasei*. Their methods were different, their lives very different, but there is a striking connection between them: all three understood the value of stopping to look. A garden, a flower, a bell, a path, a particular tree or the changing season could become worth preserving simply because, for one brief moment, someone had really noticed it.

The moment continues…

And this is where the story shifts to the present. The poets gathered in this journal are separated from Shiki by more than a century, and from the Du Cane sisters by geography, technology and circumstance. They write from different countries, cultures and landscapes, from Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific, Europe, the Middle East, North America, South America and beyond. Some may travel; others may write from the place where they live. Their subjects may be Japanese, Tasmanian, African, Asian, European, Middle Eastern, Australian, Pacific, North American, South American, or entirely personal; urban, domestic or drawn from the natural world. Yet the essential act remains unchanged: someone sees something, they pause, and craft the moment into something to keep.

A century ago, Ella Du Cane could sit before an iris in Japan and preserve it in watercolour. Florence could describe the place so that someone in London or another part of the world might imagine it, or a future traveller might remember it. Shiki could notice a sound and a piece of fruit at a temple and transform that experience into poetry. Today, a poet can look out of a window, walk down a street, sit beside the sea, notice a bird, a shadow, a flower opening, rain on glass. Or simply observe something that would ordinarily pass unnoticed and do exactly the same thing.

From sketch to haiku

That is one of the things that makes haiku so extraordinary. It belongs to no single country or century. Its roots are Japanese, but its reach is borderless. A haiku does not require its writer or reader to have visited Japan. It asks only that we look closely at the world around us. Shiki understood that poetry could be found not only in the beautiful or extraordinary, but in the ordinary, the mundane and the easily overlooked: a fruit, a bell, a flower, a passing moment. Sometimes the simplest things are the ones that stay with us. Perhaps this is why the iris is such an appropriate place to begin.

It connects two Tasmanian-born sisters, an English painter and a writer working in Japan and publishing in Soho, London, in 1908, with a Japanese poet born in 1867, and with poets writing today in places neither of them could have imagined. It connects travel with memory, painting with poetry, Japan with Tasmania, the past with the present. And it connects all of us with the simplest and oldest part of the process: to stop, to look, and capture a trace of what we saw.

Haiku is timeless because the world is always changing, yet we are always capable of noticing small things. It is borderless because wherever we live, there is always something in front of us waiting to be seen. Thank you for joining us on another *folk ku* journey. We will be taking a short break but look forward to *Issue 8: Islands,* which will open for submissions 25 March to 15 April 2027, to be published May/June. It is with deep respect and great honour that *King River Press* offers the verses within 民句 *folk ku* journal as a memorial gift to Master Masaoka Shiki.

Enjoy!

Masaoka Shiki - Spring 1893

人の来て咲くといふ也花菖蒲

they say it blooms
when visitors come
~ the Japanese iris

Nishieeta Daksh - Kolkata India

Winter apricity
I collect more than
my soul needs

Mile Lisica - Serbia

starry sky-
I look in the cat's eye
Cassiopeia

звездано небо-
тражим у оку мачка
Касиопеју

Aaron Anstett - Colorado Springs USA

moonlight
field mice squeeze
between threadbare boards

Tom Bierovic - DeLand FL USA

choir practice
a cricket
in the loft

Central Christian Church,
Lexington, Kentucky 2009

Graham Bates - Timaru New Zealand

clothesline spider
fed up with its mandala
of morning fog

Eavonka Ettinger - Long Beach CA USA

hoverflies
circle each other
the family dog snaps

Jenny Polstra - Waikato Aotearoa New Zealand

I watch
the pomegranates ripen
on my tree
as bomb-rain blackens
your family orchard

Mariangela Canzi - Italy

scudding clouds
a swirl of swallows
circle the pond

nuvole in movimento
un turbinio di rondini
circonda lo stagno

Nature at its best.

Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1891

折りもをり岐岨の旅路を五月雨

now and again
summer rain
on the Kiso journey

Jennifer Gurney - Broomfield Colorado USA

finding my way
through the backcountry roads
no GPS, no maps
just memories
and hunches

Thomas L. Vaultonburg - Rockford Illinois USA

half the peonies
facing east—
the rest undecided

Monica Kakkar - India & USA

timeless treat . . .
bopping to a bhāngrā beat
highway in the heat

In memory of my paternal grandparents, Mrs. Lajja Vati Kakkar and Mr. Ganga Ram Kakkar, and their home in Punjab, India

Johnnie Johnson Hafernik - San Francisco CA USA

3 a.m.
review of my to-do list
interrupted . . .
abandoned . . .
hoot of an owl

Carl Walsh - Melbourne Australia

billabong waters
a shallow green soup
for the spoonbill

Mark Gilbert - Nottingham UK

my life in slip pouring it in pouring it out again

Rupa Anand - New Delhi India

first spring storm:
the *champa* hushes to a heap
at my window

Late night in April, 2024, the twenty-year-old white frangipani tree comes down gently against my window. I transplant it in the neighbourhood park.

Mona Bedi - Delhi India

family dinner
the imperfect layers
of ribbon rice

Masaoka Shiki - New Year 1899

歌かるた恋ならなくに胴気哉

poem-cards* ~
though it is not love
my heart pounds!

***Uta karuta — cards featuring poems, traditionally played as a New Year game in Japan.*

Jennifer Read Hawthorne - Vero Beach Florida USA

silver anklets
brush the hem of my sari
the vermilion bindi
on my forehead tells my parents
I have become Indian

I rub sandalwood
on my pulses, still sweet
the small brown vial
I bought in India
fifty years ago

Inspired by my first trip to India, in the early seventies

Manasa Reddy Chichili - Hyderabad Telangana India

gloves off
mom's
first kiss

手袋を外して
母の
はじめてのキス

Johnnie Johnson Hafernik - San Francisco CA USA

spring bridal shower
the world's troubles drowned out
by joy and laughter

C. X. Turner - Birmingham UK

in your fingers
the way you turn
a striped shell
something in me
turns too



Lorraine Haig - Richmond Tasmania Australia

air cannon
wave after wave
of white cockatoos

David Green - Chicago Illinois USA

asphalt garden
each spring another
terracotta pot

dad, the city gardener

Emil Karla - France

the sound of water
up and down a feather
between two stones

Masaoka Shiki - Autumn 1892

明月の中に何やら踊りけり

Ah, beneath the bright moon
something or other
dancing

Bill Fay - Fox Island USA

at the temple
the patina worn
from Buddha's hands

A strong memory from my visit to Kyoto

Jennifer Read Hawthorne - Vero Beach Florida USA

nineteen Buddhist monks
walking twenty-two hundred miles
step by step, for peace...
I crack pistachios
one by one

Rowan Beckett Minor - Cleveland Ohio USA

lavender spread on my grave a murder of crows

Bill Fay - Fox Island USA

lone meadowlark
wind stealing
its song

Jenny Shepherd - London United Kingdom

a day later
all the pear blossom gone
how short the spring

I spend a huge amount of time in my study, with its view of our neighbour's beautiful pear tree. Between Easter Day and the Bank Holiday Monday, the blossom all just vanished, even when we'd had very little wind.

Sheikha A. - Dubai United Arab Emirates

hourglass reset
spring nurtures
an orphaned cocoon

Cynthia Anderson - Yucca Valley CA USA

afternoon heat
three coyotes panting
under the pines

Masaoka Shiki - Winter 1894

夕日照る時雨の森の銀杏かな

sunset falls
on the shigure* forest
a ginkgo tree

**shigure — brief passing rain traditionally associated with late autumn and early winter*

Graham Bates - Timaru New Zealand

resurrection day*
the white azalea
returns to bloom

**Easter Day in Aotearoa NZ is mid-autumn*

Eavonka Ettinger - Long Beach CA USA

our first date
when everything
was yes

We're celebrating 13 years together May 18th

Chen-ou Liu - Ajax Ontario Canada

I hide behind rows
of gentle parenting books
in this house of glass
my wife tiptoes around swings
of our toddler son's mood

Bob Clark - London England

seeds sown
for my life with trowel and spade
the playground sandpit

Tré - Blue Ridge Virginia USA

clacking down the road
grandpa fills
a bag with cans

For Welo, who loved to trade litter for coins (1925 – 2004).

Bob Clark - London England

as I turn the soil
the robin watches and waits
we both feed today

Fionnuala Waldron - Dublin Ireland

pantry cleaned
nothing left behind
for the fruit flies

Mary Oishi - Albuquerque USA

dad fries
eggs and bacon
talks of war

Valentina Ranaldi-Adams - Fairlawn Ohio USA

the change-of-life
she moves
to assisted-living

This haiku is dedicated to my deceased mother, Ida.

Masaoka Shiki - Winter 1901

餅搗にあはす鐵道唱歌かな

pounding mochi
in time with
The Railway Song*

**The Railway Song (Tetsudō Shōka) was a popular series of songs celebrating Japan's railway routes, first published in 1900.*

Ravi Kiran - Hyderabad India

small town diner
fresh fruit served
in a chipped bowl

Jacek Wilkos - Kraków Poland

empty street
spare some change sign soaked with rain
clouds' lament

Manasa Reddy Chichili - Hyderabad Telangana India

signs of spring
exhaling
my loneliness



春のしるし
吐き出して
私の孤独

Chen-ou Liu - Ajax Ontario Canada

ginko walk
the moonlit pond
frogging my ears

C. X. Turner - Birmingham UK

between weeding
and the robin’s pause
a soft wind

Mona Bedi - Delhi India

sandhill cranes
the pundit's sermon
on mortality

Fatma Zohra Habis - Algeria

Gaza’s ruins—
over a thousand tents
the moonlight

Audrey Quinn - Copenhagen Denmark

soft through fog
the neon metro sign . . .
she doesn’t recognise me

Masaoka Shiki - Autumn 1898

碁の音や芙蓉の花に灯のうつり

the sound of Go~
lamplight falling
on hibiscus

Perry L. Powell - Snellville GA USA

first kiss
the last bus
running late

Jenny Shepherd - London United Kingdom

moonless mountain night
I find my way home
by starlight alone

This is actually a memory of one of the happiest times of my life, when I worked in Switzerland in the early 90s. I lived in a tiny village in the Jura mountains, with no street lights, and the lack of light pollution meant the stars were amazing.

Cynthia Bale - Edmonton Alberta Canada

toddler awe
as planes taxi past
I've broadened your world
and we're still at the gate --
you just licked the armrest

Tim Dwyer - Bangor Northern Ireland & Brooklyn NY USA

somewhere
on the downtown bus
a champion whistler

Neha Singh Soni - Jabalpur India

same whistle
of the cookie vendor
homecoming

Timothy Daly - Senigallia Italy

daisies everywhere
I tread over my
childhood

Audrey Quinn - Copenhagen Denmark

our mythologies
converging and diverging
family gathering

Thomas Powell - Ballynagarrick Northern Ireland

the places i could be with this honeysuckle moon

Masaoka Shiki - Spring 1900

紅梅のやうな唇吸ひにけり

lips like red plum blossoms
~I kissed them

Rupa Anand - New Delhi India

temple garden —
a cellphone in the palms
of Hanuman

Hanuman is the Wind God in Hindu tradition. On a visit to the Hanuman Temple at Varanasi in December, 2023, we were amused to see this huge stone statue of him in the entrance garden of the temple!

Lev Hart - Calgary Canada

fresh snow
  ducks rush out
then back into the shed

Jerome Berglund - New Orleans USA

the chicken
plays tic-tac-toe
remarkably well

Thomas Powell - Ballynagarrick Northern Ireland

horsetail shoots
a plume moth settles
on the right one

Randy Brooks - Taylorville IL United States

mama's shadow
the heaviness of her own
watering can

Tim Dwyer - Bangor Northern Ireland
& Brooklyn NY USA

tiny spider swinging on my hiking cap

Lorraine Haig - Richmond Tasmania Australia

spring breeze
a platypus fusses
among rocks



Carl Walsh - Melbourne Australia

in my photo
the wattlebird hides
its yellow belly

Masaoko Shiki - Spring 1895

草原や蜂を恐るゝ狐の子

grassland~
afraid of bees
a fox cub

Mile Lisica - Serbia

starry sky-
we drown in haiku
the cricket and me

звездано небо-
тонемо у хаику
зрикавац и ја

Govind Joshi - Dehradun India

early spring
the bird bath
busy

Erica Ison - Oxford England

deep inside
the yew hedge
centuries of branches

Cynthia Bale - Edmonton Alberta Canada

pocket-sized book
of Emily Dickinson's
poetry ...
one childhood friend
who never betrayed me

for Susan Bogle Finnegan

Rowan Beckett Minor - Cleveland Ohio USA

nursing home—
a bluebell pressed
in the family bible

Tuyet Van Do - Australia

afternoon drizzle
a patient in the next room
yells for ice-cream

John Hawkhead - Bradford on Avon UK

last flurries of snow
silence falls around
the hospice bed

Stephen J. DeGuire - Los Angeles CA USA

from boat's stern
wind grants final wish
sea burial

Masaoka Shiki - Spring 1890

球うける極秘は風の柳哉

catching the ball~
the secret is a willow
in the wind

Matthew Markworth - Miamisburg Ohio USA

family reunion
the miles between
in the length of each hug

Neha Singh Soni - Jabalpur India

another generation
great-grandma looks for
her knitting kit

Martina Matijević - Vidovci Croatia

the grease smell
on my bike chain —
a child again

Govind Joshi - Dehradun India

no mail morning
checking
the spam

Randy Brooks - Taylorville IL USA

eggs over easy
on a stack of pancakes
her love my love

Bhawana Rathore - India

long afternoon
the bamboo wind chime
softly moves
this heaviness
I cannot name

Manasa Reddy Chichili - India

quiet kitchen
the clock ticks louder
than my thoughts

నిశ్శబ్దమైన వంటగది
గడియారం టిక్ టిక్ శబ్దమే ఎక్కువ
నా ఆలోచనల కన్నా

Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1891

雨乞の中の一人やわたし守

among those praying for rain~
a ferryman
one of them

Manasa Reddy Chichili - India

first spring rain
a sparrow shakes water
from its wings

తొలి వసంతపు వర్షం
ఒక పిచ్చుక తన రెక్కల నుండి
ీటిని దులుపుకుంటుంది

Maeve O'Sullivan - Dublin Ireland

just before
an afternoon of music —
early plum blossom

David Green - Chicago Illinois USA

red light
a gloved hand
plays air trumpet

morning commute, January

Archie G. Carlos - Minnesota USA

blossom viewing
grandson spots one more
7-Eleven



David J. Kelly - Tewkesbury UK

spring planting
a child gives the chrysalis
its own row

Maeve O'Sullivan - Dublin Ireland

April clouds –
I separate the wallflowers
before they bloom



Barbara Anna Gaiardoni - Verona Italy

springtime
a new passion
for the family

Dedicated to the part of our family living far from our city, whom I love more and more.

Cristina Povero - Cherasco Italy

cat's night zooming –
never thought my life
was boring before

Mark Gilbert - Nottingham UK

Laurel & Hardy
I haven't laughed like that
in ages

Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1893

退屈や糸の小口もさみだるゝ

weary~
even the tip of a thread
wet with summer rain

M. Lakshmiram - Chennai India

Fifty-two winters –
She still cooks my favorite dinner –
We still share our old jokes

Dedicated to my wife, Lata – we celebrated our 52nd wedding anniversary on 25th March 2026.

Louise Hopewell - Melbourne Australia

moving house
realising I'm not the minimalist
I claim to be

Fatma Zohra Habis - Algeria

spring break
the tree they are shaking
rains laughter

Louise Hopewell - Melbourne Australia

bare elms
I rescue poppa's artworks
from the skip in the drive

Barbara Feehrer - Westford MA USA

another summer
at the lake—
how many more?

87th birthday

Mike Fainzilber - Tel Aviv Israel

morning mist
the taste of
distant peaks

Cristina Povero - Cherasco Italy

mum's first hearing aids
her smug smile opens
at the robins' chirrup

Emil Karla - France

green waters:
as I tell my sons about Bashō,
a frog croaks!

Masaoka Shiki - Spring 1892

鶯や同じ深山の門の松

bush warbler~
same pine by the gate
in the deep mountains

Gavin Austin - Sydney Australia

riverbend
the valley mist
hangs with birdsong

Fionnuala Waldron - Dublin Ireland

summer drought
in the wilting borders
lavender thrives

Jennifer Gurney - Broomfield Colorado USA

your perfume
on my dresser, still
Chantilly
just one spritz
I wear you on my skin

John Hawkhead - Bradford on Avon UK

in one small bloom heartsease

heartsease is a wild pansy or 'love-in-idleness' according to Shakespeare

Sheikha A. - Dubai United Arab Emirates

stillness
upon stillness, midnight
thrums in prayer

Tina Mowrey - San Antonio TX USA

cicadas
and chirping frogs
late night lullaby

Thomas Landgraf - Melbourne Australia

under the temple-tree
snuggled together
two snails

Mariangela Canzi - Italy

spring field
all the roads
yet to take

campo in primavera
tutte le strade ancora
da percorrere

New beginnings...

Masaoka Shiki - Winter 1896

枯野原團子の茶屋もなかりけり

withered field~
not even a dumpling tea stall
in sight

Thomas L. Vaultonburg - Rockford Illinois USA

prairie wind—
my hat
becomes a pilgrim

Aaron Anstett - Colorado Springs USA

noon
a leaf falls exactly
onto its shadow



Thomas Smith - Austin Texas USA

peaceful river
her brush strokes
welcome us home

My Great Aunt's painting hangs in our front hall. Done ~1900. She passed a long time ago, and we remember her talent each time we see her painting.

David J. Kelly - Tewkesbury UK

overnight showers
the tin roof rattles
like a popcorn pan

Goran Gatalica - Zagreb Croatia

the sound of rain
tapping on windows
—empty chapel

Maria Cristina Pulvirenti - Italy

flight of ravens -
the scarecrow
so miserable

Thomas Smith - Austin Texas USA

the old oak tree
a dream of a tree house
rests on its limbs

In our backyard. Never got the treehouse done.

Paul Callus - Ħal Safi Malta

garden intruder
peeping into the coop
a masked racoon

Masaoka Shiki - Autumn 1894

けふの日を祝へ野菊の草枕

a day to celebrate~
wild chrysanthemums
a grass pillow

Erica Ison - Oxford England

ancient apple tree
a mosaic of moss
and lichen

Tré - Blue Ridge Virginia USA

making a wish
I blow out
the cherry blossoms

The birthday wish I made during hanami in Yoyogi Park, Tokyo.

Stephen Toft - Lancaster UK

day moon
her skin as thin
as bible paper

Ravi Kiran - Hyderabad India

deathbed
watching a moth
embrace a flame

Jenny Polstra - Waikato Aotearoa New Zealand

the chair
on his verandah
empty all week
no waft of cigarettes
no gruff good morning

Gavin Austin - Sydney Australia

the hallways
echo with soft footfalls
shadows settle
where memories gather
beyond the hospice window

Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney

Lori Kiefer - London UK

park bench
my grandson's feet
on soft grass

Anne Fox - Broomes Island MD USA

whip-poor-will
a smell of old books
in the rain

Masaoka Shiki - Autumn 1894

忘れ物扇一本と停車場

forgotten~
one folding fan
at the railway station

Brendan E. Kennedy - Silver Spring MD USA

a wheelchair
arrives for Allyson
yellow leaves

for A.H., 1975-2025

Joshua St. Claire - York County Pennsylvania USA

old dirt road
the pansies no one planted
wilting in the sun

Marilyn Humbert - Sydney Australia

the flood
of a summer storm…
we watch
the parched wetlands
overflowing with hope

Mariola Grabowska - Warsaw Poland

golden wedding
tender larch needles
beneath her hand

złote wesele
delikatne igły modrzewia
pod jej dłonią

Boryana Boteva - Sofia Bulgaria

scarecrow
even the sparrow recognizes
Granny's scarf

плашило
и врабчето даже позна
забрадката на баба

Robert Witmer - Tokyo Japan

passing bus
a stranger's smile
quick as a periwinkle

Geethanjali Rajan - Chennai India

winter train journey –
puffs of steam
from a tea flask

Jacob Blumner - Flint Michigan USA

old friends
the same laugh
at the same joke

Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1896

新茶青く古茶黒し我れ古茶飲まん

new tea: green
old tea: black
I'll take the old tea

Richa Sharma - Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh India

cuckoo's song
the short heartbeat
of my grandmother

Dyana Basist - Santa Cruz CA USA

nest in a teapot
a robin chick
reaching

Vishal Prabhu - Greater Himalayas India

carrying some pink
into the new year…
dried chrysanthemums

Bonnie J Scherer - Palmer Alaska USA

burnished
on the depot wall
my uncle's name
his early days fishing
for a woman to love

Oh, the joy of finding my uncle's name etched on the walls of the train depot in Bayfield, WI on a recent vacation! It evoked reminiscences of his married life as a hard-working gill net fisherman on Lake Superior.

Tina Mowrey - San Antonio TX USA

first kiss
on a moonless night
she sees stars

Suraja Menon Roychowdhury - Lexington MA USA

steam swirls
above a blue flame
the color of tea

Jim Chessing - San Ramon California USA

the great blue heron
locked in strike pose
more patient than me
empty clouds mill about
an indifferent sky

Neena Singh - Chandigarh, India

winter wind
seeing the loved faces lost
from our wedding album

Dedicated to our parents who have crossed over

Masaoka Shiki - Autumn 1898

縫物や灯をかきたつる雁の聲

sewing~
the calls of wild geese
stir the lamplight

Tony Williams - Glasgow Scotland UK

bright sky
the swallows are swifts
the swifts are swallows

Katja Fox - Cambridge England UK

dawn train home
a fox
ends his shift

Jacek Margolak - Kielce Poland

laundry drying
in the wind —
my mother's shirt

Helping with the spring cleaning at my childhood home.

Barbara Feehrer - Westford MA USA

a fallen owl
beside the snowy trail
our fragile world

for my daughter

Tony Williams - Glasgow Scotland UK

barely spring
the deep drone
of a bumblebee

Joseph P. Wechselberger - Browns Mills NJ USA

St. Francis' chin
rests on a drift of snow
winter garden

Jacek Margolak - Kielce Poland

empty chair —
the way it holds
the evening

Watching the light fade in a room that feels full of memories.

Masaoka Shiki - Autumn 1896

青空やひろひろとして月一つ

the blue sky,
its endlessness~
a single moon

Gareth Nurden - Newport Wales

evening chill
a scarf the colour
of autumn

Richa Sharma - Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh India

the Milky Way my favourite god has a potbelly

Valentina Ranaldi-Adams - Fairlawn Ohio USA

New Year's Eve
countdown
to a kiss

This haiku is dedicated to my spouse, Tony.

Geethanjali Rajan - Chennai India



squinting one eye
at the first rays of spring
calico cat

Florian Munteanu - Romania

fire in the rain--
an old fisherfolk's hut
angelfish on sand

Joshua St. Claire - York County Pennsylvania USA

tidal pool
a teen catches
his reflection

Nicholas Gentile - York South Carolina USA

the tree we climbed
in our youth—
their thumbs flicker
clip after clip
of kids climbing trees

my granddaughter scrolling videos of kids playing with toys

Jacek Wilkos - Kraków Poland

plants on office desk
the calm island of green
in the gray of days

Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1896

酒好の昼から飲むや百日紅

sake-lover
drinking since noon
crape myrtle

Katja Fox - Cambridge England UK

silent conversation
arranging his flowers
in her vase

Jahnavi Gogoi - Ajax Ontario Canada

tightening the belt
on his old mackintosh
father's day

Shannon Wallace - Mississauga Canada

graffiti on
burnt sienna brick wall

John Pappas - Boston MA USA

shelter poker
he wonders how to win
with a losing hand

Scott Wiggerman - Albuquerque New Mexico USA

belting the blues
blueberry skins
between her teeth

Neena Singh - Chandigarh India

childhood memories—
my wake-up alarm
Papa's chanting

Dedicated to my beloved father — my North Star, who was both father and mother to me

Biswajit Mishra - Calgary Canada

first bike ride
all my confidence
in dad's hands

Marilyn Ashbaugh - USA

cloudy spring
the rope ladder
sways in the wind

Masaoka Shiki - Autumn 1892

夕日さす山段々の晩稲哉

the evening sun
over mountain terraces
~late rice

John Pappas - Boston MA USA

november night
the deep black of
father's coffee

Hifsa Ashraf - Rawalpindi Pakistan

first spring light
a young mantis
stretching in the grass

Jeremy Haworth - Ballyadams Ireland

a kettle whistling
in the trawler cabin
low hung sun

Nicholas Gentile - York South Carolina USA

grandma's basement
the old, webbed lawn chairs
generations of stories
rest folded
against the cement wall

Belinda Behne - Clinton CT USA

warm nights with dad
baseball on the radio
moths circle the lamp

Kevin Browne - Wisconsin USA

fiddlehead ferns
unfurling the
Devonian flag

Joseph P. Wechselberger - Browns Mills NJ USA

overgrown field
fuzzy dice on the mirror
of a rusting Chevy

Paula Sears - Exeter New Hampshire USA

remembering everyone's name
at the garden party
heirloom roses

Masaoka Shiki - Winter 1894

常盤木や冬されまさる城の跡

evergreens~
winter sets in at the castle ruins

M. R. Pelletier - Topeka KS USA

laundromat
a mural with palms
and a sailboat

Marc Brimble - Catarroja Spain

on the way
to the market square
old women
chatting

Keiko Izawa - Yokohama Japan

new term
a hand-stitched swallow
on the bento bag

Tuyet Van Do - Australia

art and craft session
a heart tattoo
on a lady's back



Bryan Rickert - Belleville IL USA

winter woods
for the lack of birds
my whistling

Hifsa Ashraf - Rawalpindi Pakistan

on the forest trail
the wind and I
remain unknown

Vaishnavi Ramaswamy - Chennai India

still waters . . .
the pink of dawn
on a kingfisher's beak

**Lulu Sinnott - Ballyknock Saint Mullins
County Carlow Ireland**

Irish summer
wearing your winter coat
to the beach

Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1895

心よき青葉の風や旅姿

a pleasant breeze
through the greenery~
a traveller

Robyn Cairns - Melbourne Australia

watching a boy build lego
on the bullet train
my wistful heart

Robert Witmer - Tokyo Japan

paddy field
white herons
playing chess with a buffalo

Mariola Grabowska - Warsaw Poland

observatory –
through the stone's hollow
6000 years

obserwatorium –
przez dziurę w kamieniu
6000 lat

Lulu Sinnott - Ballyknock Saint Mullins.
County Carlow Ireland

Japanese garden
even the sycamore
looks exotic

M. R. Pelletier - Topeka KS USA

pilgrimage
here again
before the pine

Suraja Menon Roychowdhury - Lexington MA USA

a stream
murmurs quietly
lost in its song
I paint a stippled cloud
over water lilies

Elliot Diamond - Philadelphia USA

prayer beads—
acorns
first frost

Recalling moments in Nepal with 'change' in the earth and my spirit

Keiko Izawa - Yokohama Japan

spring mountain
the slow steps
of a boss monkey

Masaoka Shiki - Spring 1900

蝶々の来べき庭なり桜草

a garden that butterflies should visit
~primroses

Ben Oliver - Stroud Gloucestershire England

village cricket match
the length
of her daisy chain

Joanna Ashwell - UK

moonlit adventure
I watch silently
the boxing hares

Biswajit Mishra - Calgary Canada

fast train
still cows
grazing

Marc Brimble - Catarroja Spain

a cat appears
from under a car,
passing rain

Vishal Prabhu - Greater Himalayas India

willow leaf
a bug steps over
the edge

Monica Kakkar - India & United States of America

slivers of sunscreen—
taking its time
Tasmanian devil

Homage to the Tasmanian devil (Sarcophilus harrisii), listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species due to a population decline of over 60% in the past decade. Remembering my joy at seeing him safe in his habitat at a sanctuary in Queensland, Australia.

Adele Evershed - Wilton CT USA

liquorice root—
tweaking mum’s old recipe
for depression



Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1896

家内十人蚊帳三ところに収まりぬ

a household of ten
all settled under three mosquito nets

Joseph P. Wechselberger - Browns Mills NJ USA

the fragrance of peonies
coming and going
grandma's driveway

Ben Oliver - Stroud Gloucestershire England

long contrails . . .
mum still waving after
they round the bend

My sister has lived in Scotland for 30+ years...
mum still waves until her car vanishes from sight.

Scott Wiggerman - Albuquerque New Mexico USA

eggshells her light gait

Vandana Parashar - Panchkula India

summer lake
the stillness
of my reflection

John Pappas - Boston MA USA

peace lily
at home with my
loneliness

Elliot Diamond - Philadelphia USA

dry river—
stones
sipping

The environment needs all to help.

Marie Derley - Ath Wallonia Belgium

cooing pigeon –
not having a date
for Saturday night

Masaoka Shiki - Autumn 1892

名月や鶴ののつたる捨小船

harvest moon~
a crane perched
on an abandoned boat

Gareth Nurden - Newport Wales

blinking lighthouse
another visitor
driftwood

Robyn Cairns - Melbourne Australia

Toyama tram stop
an old lady shares
kumo means cloud

Beautiful moment shared in Japan

Marie Derley - Ath Wallonia Belgium

equinox night
I ask the questions
and give the answers

Debbie Strange - Winnipeg Canada

a hole
in grandma's eiderdown . . .
falling snow

Amber Winter - New Freedom Pennsylvania USA

the cherry on top
of snow covered trees
northern cardinal

Nicholas Gentile - York South Carolina USA

golden anniversary
a gentle caress—
the most beautiful
wrinkles
cupped between my palms

Just letting my wife know...

Kevin Browne - Wisconsin USA

urban park
the calm pace of
sandhill cranes

Thomas Landgraf - Melbourne Australia

spring carnival...
sipping prosecco
in puddles and ponchos

Anthony Lusardi - Rockaway Borough New Jersey USA

spotting jupiter—
the calmness they both display
before diagnosis

Masaoka Shiki - Autumn 1896

三日月の吹き取られたる野分哉

crescent moon
swept away by the autumn storm

Lori Kiefer - London UK

tea leaf ceremony
mum turns the cup
slowly clockwise

Hifsa Ashraf - Rawalpindi Pakistan

how long
will it last?
spring snow

Christine Judd - Cudal Australia

this starry night…
asleep on the
trampoline

Boryana Boteva - Sofia Bulgaria

cherry blossoms
even after a decade
we are still the same

Dedicated to my classmates from the Language School Silistra

вишнев цвят
и след десет години
пак сме си същите

Посвещава се на моите съученици от „Езикова гимназия“, гр. Силистра

Tony Williams - Glasgow Scotland UK

balmy day
the stonechat
stops to…

Ben Oliver - Stroud Gloucestershire England

summer park
everyone there knows
George!

Paul Callus - Ħal Safi Malta

disappearing act –
a cat leaps
into the mist





Marilyn Ashbaugh - USA

hurrying
through the wind
petal rain

Spring rainy days are some of my favorites. Petals often drift through the wind adding to the beauty.

Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1902

言巧ニ蚤取粉売ル夜店カナ

clever sales talk
selling flea powder at the night stall
ha!

Cynthia Anderson - Yucca Valley California USA

telegraph a pause in the cricket's code

Anne Fox - Broomes Island MD USA

easter lilies
the untended grave
blooms again

Tom Bierovic - DeLand FL USA

bare hedge a sparrow Vivaldi spring

Victoria Gardens, DeLand, FL 2026

Lev Hart - Calgary Canada

on a floating flip-flop frog

Ruth Holzer - Potomac Falls Virginia USA

earthworms and I
gaze at it together
full spring moon

Clive Bennett - Wales

counting crows
a nursery rhyme
long forgotten

Jim Chessing - San Ramon California USA

a little drink
for the snake plant . . .
I prefer people
in small doses, a lifetime
of living in corners

Bryan Rickert - Belleville IL USA

mother takes
a turn for the better
false spring

Masaoka Shiki - Spring 1902

病床を三里はなれて土筆取

three ri* from the sickbed
gathering horsetail shoots

**ri, an old Japanese measure of distance, roughly 4 km (2.5 miles)*

Vandana Parashar - Panchkula India

that tree
we used to climb
firewood

Brendan E. Kennedy - Silver Spring MD USA

sleeping in
a pile of himself
saint bernard

for Nemo, the biggest boy

Lucas Weissenborn - Oslo Norway

north wind…
the accordion's sound
torn away

Ruth Holzer - Potomac Falls Virginia USA

blue shadows
over the snow
wine for one

Amber Winter - New Freedom Pennsylvania USA

broken geoduck
a pearl forms
within her

Nancy Brady - Huron Ohio USA

winter seclusion
watching the cardinal
in the holly

With snow covering the ground, I stayed inside and watched the cardinal picking at berries of the holly.

Anthony Lusardi - Rockaway Borough New Jersey USA

family dinnertime
even a toddler
on an iphone

Belinda Behne - Clinton CT USA

first blossoms
dreaming of grandma's
crabapple jam

Masaoka Shiki - New Year 1902

扇取るわらべ可愛し謡初

picking up a fan
the cute child
New Year song

Brendan E. Kennedy - Silver Spring MD USA

woven sunhat—
on your cheeks
sunlight freckles

for Emily - Stockbridge, MA - Sept. 2025

Clive Bennett - Wales

swinging on
the schoolyard gate …
a great tit's song

Goran Gatalica - Zagreb Croatia

a praying mantis
in a field of wild lupine
—end of war

Archie G. Carlos - Minnesota USA

bullet train
my eyes too slow
for Mount Fuji



Jim Chessing - San Ramon California USA

ascending
the last wooded stretch
I bend
to the lofty mountain
upon whose back I ride

Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei

From the Maaori proverb: Seek the treasure that you value most dearly,
if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain

Lavana Kray - Romania

beach concert –
shells, seaweed, dolls
take the stage

Dyana Basist - Santa Cruz CA USA

summertime
thorns poke
my purple fingers

Lavana Kray - Romania

stormy picnic –
baby frog splashing
in the wine mug

Masaoka Shiki - Summer 1899

鳰の子の親の真似して潜りけり

a grebe chick
copying its parent
dives under the water

Katja Fox - Cambridge England UK

Sunday alone
she lifts a single sock
with just one toe

Adele Evershed - Wilton CT USA

earthquake map—
his pen circles
her biopsy site

Kimberly A Horning - St Augustine FL USA

her passing
the wall sconces
burn brighter

Jahnavi Gogoi - Ajax Ontario Canada

pink carnations
ma tells me i have
my sister's eyes

For the older sister who passed the year before I was born. My mom talks about how I resemble her.

Paula Sears - Exeter New Hampshire USA

shearing the sheep
sunlight warms
the valley

Jacob Blumner - Flint Michigan USA

cold snap
last night's empties
whip around the yard

Joanna Ashwell - UK

the slow inch
of a caterpillar
leaf miles

Julijo Stebih - Cakovec Croatia

The stable muck steams...
An autumn sauna made for
one very bored fly.

Foggy morning near the barn

Masaoka Shiki - Autumn 1896

星月夜ひとり五階に寐る夜哉

starry moonlit eve
lying alone on the 5th floor
~what a night!

Joshua St. Claire - York County Pennsylvania USA

spruceshadow
a sodden fox shrinks
into her tail

Jerome Berglund - New Orleans USA

passing spring
a woolly bear makes
its winding circuit

Robyn Cairns - Melbourne Australia

work carpark
sharing a mackerel sky
with the team

for my work colleagues at Karwan Primary School

Vaishnavi Ramaswamy - Chennai India

morning light . . .
the half chirp
of a golden oriole

Amber Winter - New Freedom Pennsylvania USA

field mouse soon regrets
it's venture through the meadow
northern harrier

Jeremy Haworth - Ballyadams Ireland

sliver of dawn
the deck of the *Rosebud*
sticky with guts

Lucas Weissenborn - Oslo Norway

tank glass —
the killer whale's
black eye

still the remorse for having visited Loro Parque years ago…

Masaoka Shiki - Winter 1897

井戸端や水汲む女雪をかこつ

beside the well
the woman drawing water
complains of the snow

Shannon Wallace - Mississauga Canada

ladybug lands on
emergency exit sticker

Marilyn Humbert - Sydney Australia

wildfire
nights brighter
than the stars

Lakshmi Iyer - Trivandrum India

tinkling cow bells
the wind carries home
a farmer's song

Barbara Feehrer - Westford MA USA

a pair of bluebirds
share the perch
our anniversary date

June 24th

**Lulu Sinnott - Ballyknock Saint Mullins
County Carlow Ireland**

on the river
no ducklings yet
still sitting waiting

Bipasha Majumder (De) - West Bengal India

sand dunes
our jeep safari through
the crescent moon

JM Fitch - London England

uneasy climb
to a matriarch's lair
the stone sea













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