

# failed ~~haiku~~

*A Journal of English Senryu*  
*Volume 9, Issue 98*

**bryan rickert** *'Failed' Editor*

[www.failedhaiku.com](http://www.failedhaiku.com)

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In loving memory of Adjei Agyei-Baah. A wonderful poet, friend, mentor to many, and long time contributor to Failed Haiku. Here is just a little taste of his many contributions:

dark days sermon  
a bald worshiper's head  
reflecting light                      Issue 51

kneeling down  
to tie his shoes  
my son blesses me                      Issue 58

family dinner  
the uncle who keeps  
twisting his mustache                      Issue 64

deserted park  
an abandoned newspaper  
keeps me company                      Issue 65

drunk on a date  
the winding staircase  
to my hotel room                      Issue 67

winter moonlight  
the migrant misses his stop  
on the train                      Issue 73

end of the day  
paying the mean barber  
with a fart                      Issue 76

# Cast List

*In order of appearance*

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<b>John Hawkhead</b>	<b>Tim Dwyer</b>
<b>Patricia Hawkhead</b>	<b>John Budan</b>
<b>Daniel Birnbaum</b>	<b>Debbie Olson</b>
<b>Diana Webb</b>	<b>Sharon Ferrante</b>
<b>Bryan Cook</b>	<b>Jo McInerney</b>
<b>Shloka Shankar</b>	<b>Rohan Buettel</b>
<b>Vidya Premkumar</b>	<b>Gavin Austin</b>
<b>Marilyn Ward</b>	<b>Louise Hopewell</b>
<b>Raghav Prashant Sundar</b>	<b>Lavana Kray</b>
<b>Randy Brooks</b>	<b>Robert Witmer</b>
<b>Vidya Premkumar</b>	<b>Joshua Gage</b>
<b>Tazeem Fatma</b>	<b>Frank Hillyard</b>
<b>Vidya Premkumar</b>	<b>Marcellin</b>
<b>Tracy Davidson</b>	<b>Dallaire-Beaumont</b>
<b>Sarah E. Metzler</b>	<b>Michael J. Galko</b>
<b>Susan Yavaniski</b>	<b>Vandana Parashar</b>
<b>Joshua St. Claire</b>	<b>Gil Jackofsky</b>
<b>Kelly Sargent</b>	<b>Rick Jackofsky</b>
<b>Maxianne Berger</b>	<b>Oscar Luparia</b>
<b>B. L. Bruce</b>	<b>Marilyn Ashbaugh</b>
<b>David Josephsohn</b>	<b>Mark Teaford</b>
<b>Robert Epstein</b>	<b>Steliana Cristina Voicu</b>
<b>Ravi Kiran</b>	<b>Ben Oliver</b>
<b>Ingrid Baluchi</b>	<b>André Le Mont Wilson</b>
<b>Roberta Beach Jacobson</b>	<b>Steve Bahr</b>

**Anthony Lusardi**  
**Jerome Berglund**  
**Arvinder Kaur**  
**Nick T**  
**Debbie Strange**  
**Shawn Blair**  
**Elliot Diamond**  
**Caroline Giles Banks**  
**Teji Sethi**  
**Deborah Burke Henderson**  
**Wilbert Salgado**  
**Jennifer Gurney**  
**Barrie Levine**  
**Richard L. Matta**  
**Lev Hart**  
**Ganesh R.**  
**Deepa Patil**  
**John C. Waugh**  
**John J. Dunphy**  
**Mary Theis**  
**Lorin Ford**  
**Joseph P. Wechselberger**  
**Jan Stretch**  
**Cynthia Rowe**  
**Rupa Anand**  
**Michael Henry Lee**  
**Nina Kovačić**  
**David Watts**  
**Tsanka Shishkova**  
**Alvin B. Cruz**  
**Tim Cremin**

**Laurie Greer**  
**Mark Gilbert**  
**Mark Forrester**  
**Ruth Holzer**  
**Curt Pawlisch**  
**Tony Williams**  
**Sharon Martina**  
**Mike White**  
**William Scott Galasso**  
**Ron Scully**  
**Birk Andersson**  
**Ron Nhim**  
**Alanna C. Burke**  
**Jon Hare**  
**M. R. Defibaugh**  
**Joanna Ashwell**  
**Stefano d'Andrea**  
**Susan Lee Roberts**  
**Adele Evershed**  
**Mark Meyer**  
**Peter Jastermsky**  
**Richa Sharma**  
**Surashree Joshi**  
**Jamie Wimberly**  
**Deborah Karl-Brandt**  
**M. R. Pelletier**  
**Neena Singh**  
**Bob Lucky**  
**Mike Gallagher**  
**Susan Farner**

**Sarah Paris**  
**Julie Bloss Kelsey**  
**Sherry Grant**  
**Denise Fontaine-Pincince**  
**Caroline Nachem**  
**Sondra J. Byrnes**  
**Heather Lurie**  
**Stephanie Zepherelli**  
**Robert Kingston**  
**Tuyet Van Do**  
**Lori Kiefer**  
**Francoise Maurice**  
**Natalia Kuznetsova**  
**Lourie August**  
**Maeve O'Sullivan**  
**Ramund Ro**  
**Robert Hirschfield**  
**Keith Evetts**  
**Eavonka Ettinger**  
**Cynthia Anderson**  
**petro c. k.**  
**Bonnie J Scherer**  
**Valentina Ranaldi-Adams**  
**Douglas J. Lanzo**  
**Ram Chandran**  
**Wanda Amos**  
**C.X. Turner**  
**John J. Han**  
**Kalyanee Arandhara**  
**Mike Fainzilber**

**Daniela Misso**  
**Wilda Morris**  
**Jay Friedenberg**  
**Lorraine A Padden/**  
**Diane Fine**  
**Alfred Booth**  
**Vijay Prasad**  
**adele nwankwo**  
**Meera Rehm**  
**Mona Iordan**  
**Vishal Prabhu**  
**Chen-ou Liu**  
**Tazeen Fatma**  
**Doris Jean Lynch**  
**federico c. peralta**  
**Stephenie Story**  
**Nicola Schaum**  
**Tomislav Sjekloća**  
**Patricia Daharsh**  
**Ruchita Madhok**  
**David Oates**  
**Wiesław Karliński**  
**LeRoy Gorman**  
**Eugeniusz Zacharski**  
**Kevin Valentine**  
**Erica Ison**  
**Lakshmi Iyer**  
**Mona Bedi**  
**John Pappas**  
**Bryan Rickert**

## *Cherita Salon*

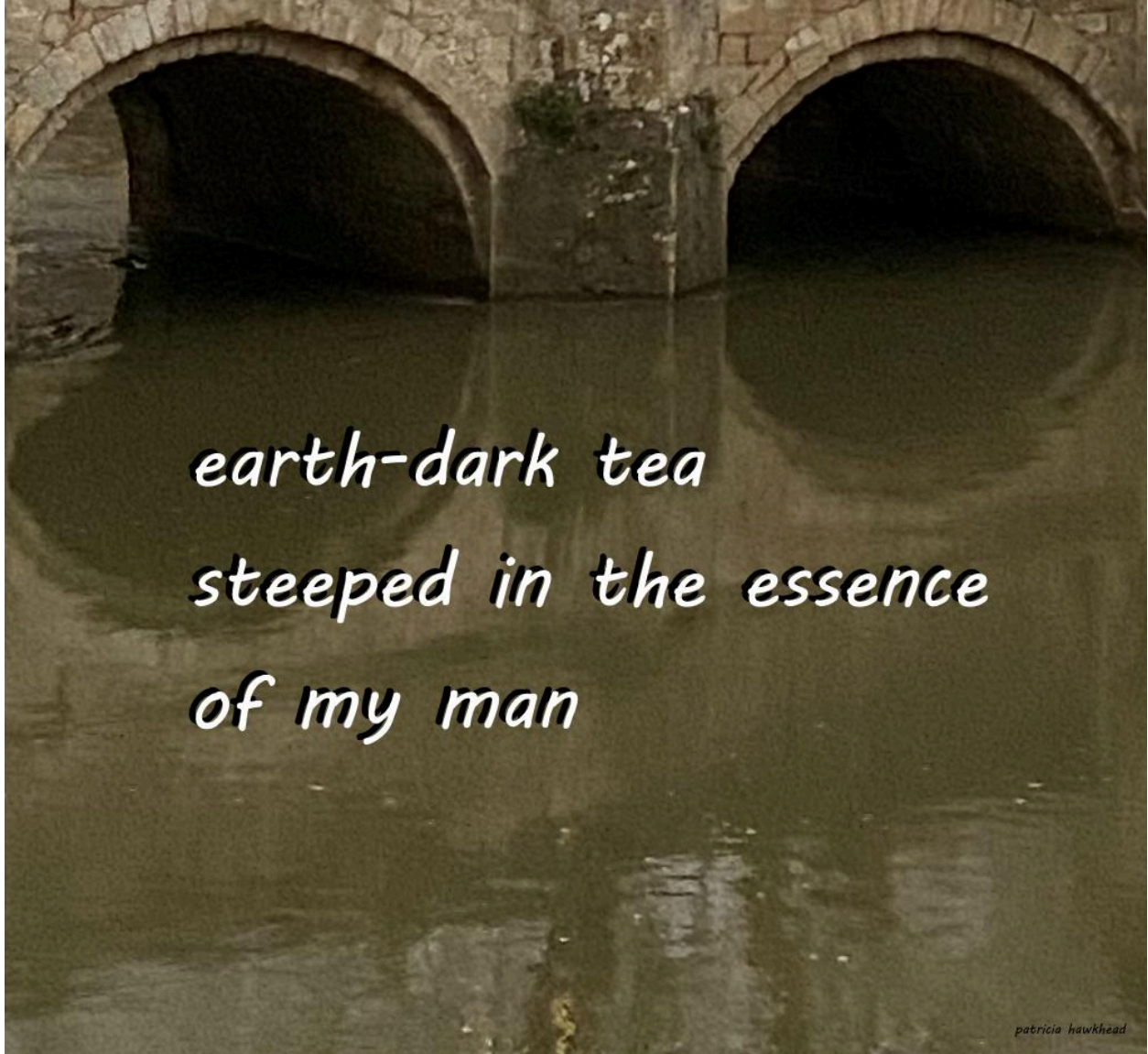
**Linda Papanicolaou  
Thomas Haynes  
Tracy Davidson  
Peter Larsen  
Sarah E. Metzler  
John Budan  
Colleen Farrelly  
Pitt Buerken  
Sharon Ferrante  
Rohan Buettel  
Gavin Austin  
Jackie Chou  
Gil Jackofsky  
John Zheng  
Ingrid Baluchi  
Jerome Berglund  
Arvinder Kaur  
Richard L. Matta  
Keitha Keyes  
Jan Stretch  
Eva Joan  
Tim Cremin  
Ron Scully**

**Marilyn Humbert  
Peter Jastermsky  
M. R. Defibaugh  
Marie Derley  
Neena Singh  
Susan Farner  
Adrian Bouter  
Keith Evetts  
Jackie Chou/  
*Kathabela Wilson*  
Cynthia Anderson  
Robin Valtiala  
Audrey Quinn  
Wilda Morris  
Audrey Quinn  
Nitu Yumnam  
David Oates  
Wonja Brucker  
Lafcadio  
Jenny Fraser  
Bryan Rickert**

health service cuts  
the dentist asks me  
if I grind my teeth

temple bell  
the cattle truck  
returns empty

**John Hawkhead**



church bells  
we sleep through  
the warnings

**Patricia Hawkhead**



new hairstyle  
outside the wind  
disagrees

the arm  
tagging the wall  
covered with tattoos

**Daniel Birnbaum**

## **Stitching**

Mother's in the kitchen...

She tells me she has an old Singer sewing machine. Might need oiling. He tells me he needs to buy a new vacuum cleaner because the old one's completely clogged with lengths of thrown away thread, odd darners with a great big eyes and a thimble or two which may be antique That's the trouble. Doing it all by hand.

in comes a burglar  
pilfering bins  
for fingerprints

**Diana Webb**

## **The Pinch**

Hastening towards the hospital behind a middle-aged couple. Suddenly she reaches back and gives his bum-crotch a lazy, lover's pinch.

"Saw that " I mutter just loud enough for them to hear.

"Oh, my God" she startles " I didn't think anyone would see!"

Jokingly, I ask if I could have one too. "It's been so long since that's been done to me!"

Her partner plays along. " Be careful, she's dangerous like that! Perhaps I should walk between you two, she's got long arms."

Her blush of embarrassment rises above her face-mask and muffler.

In the foyer I wait for the next elevator, just to be safe and act as a gentleman should have done all along!

### ***renewing vows***

*"love, honour and obey"*

*paying attention*

*second time around*

### ***each morning***

*daily horoscope*

*the astrologer's crib-sheet*

*rarely fits*

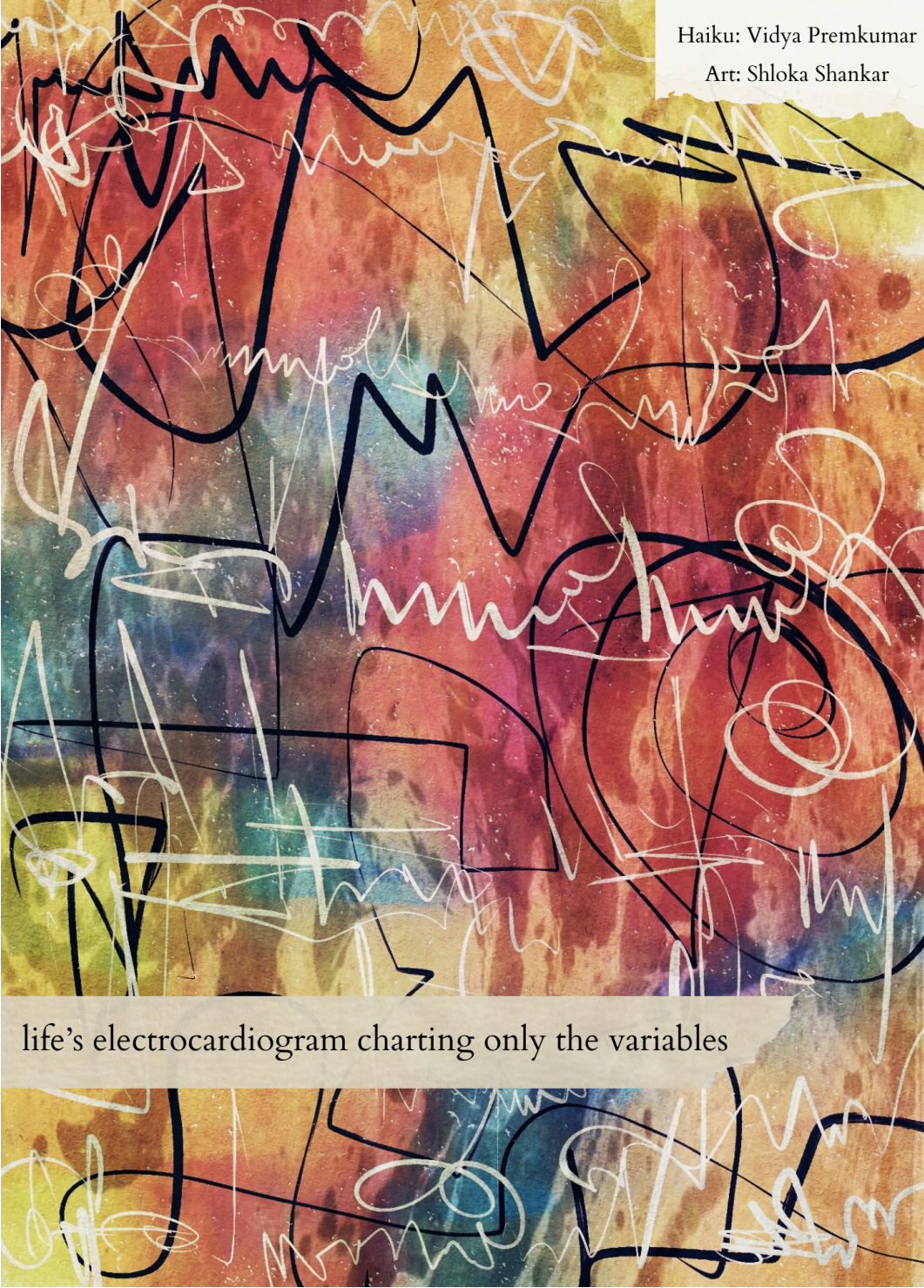
### ***kiss and hug***

*pressing tummies*

*instead of hips*

*seniors' embrace*

**Bryan Cook**



Haiku: Vidya Premkumar  
Art: Shloka Shankar

life's electrocardiogram charting only the variables

**Shloka Shankar**  
**Vidya Premkumar**

guided by starlight  
she finds her way  
to the last mince pie

a fresh tissue...  
taking a break  
from the argument

**Marilyn Ward**

trojan horse  
a new sock appears  
in my laundry

fourth beer  
my speech bubbles  
grow larger

**Raghav Prashant Sundar**

::!~!::

male spider burlesque  
champion

mother says  
she never took  
to spoiling . . .  
I never had  
that problem

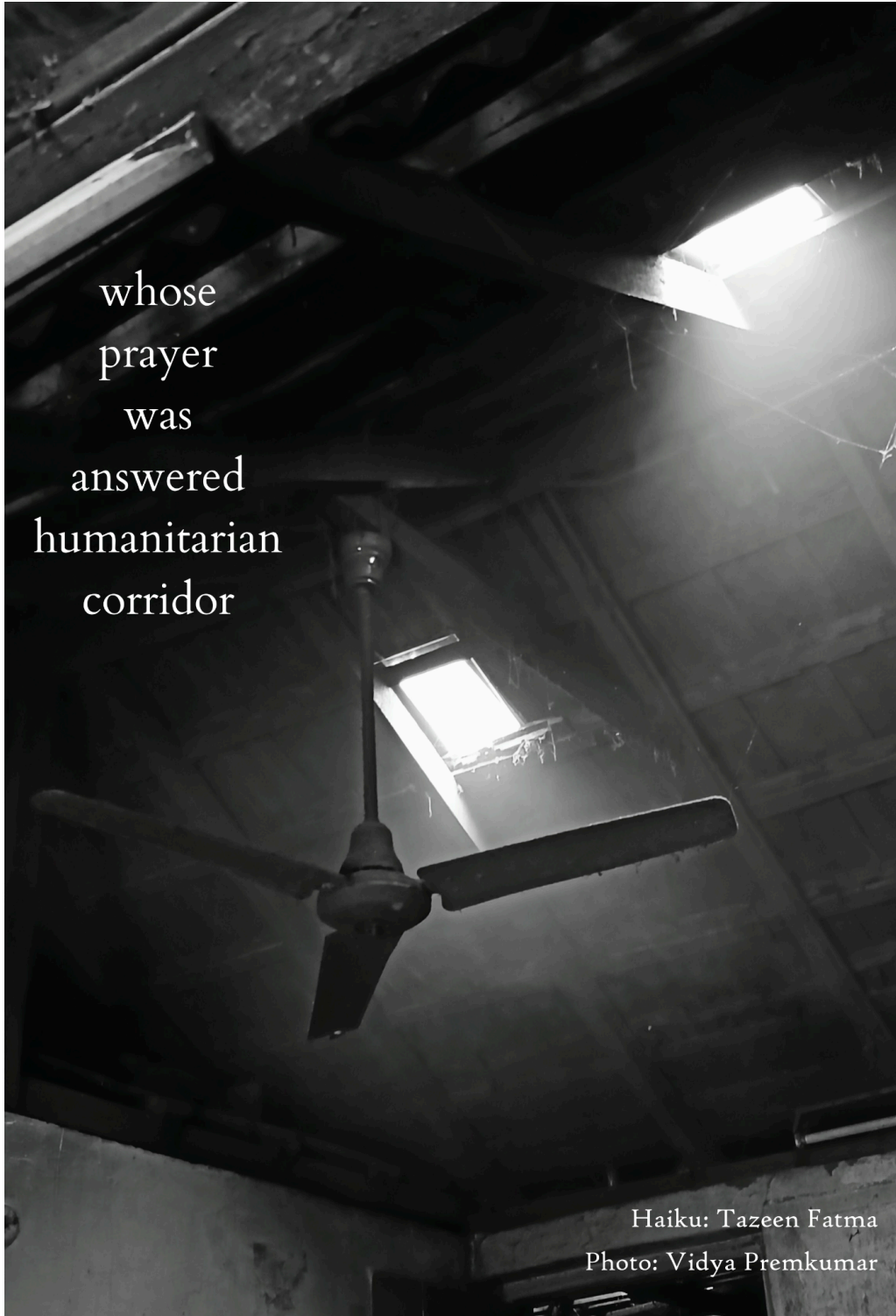
feathers and hooks  
in a lunchbox  
so many fishing flies  
we could tie  
in time

**Randy Brooks**

your trauma a thin layer of guilt around my motherhood

**Vidya Premkumar**





whose  
prayer  
was  
answered  
humanitarian  
corridor

Haiku: Tazeen Fatma  
Photo: Vidya Premkumar

**Tazeem Fatma**  
**Vidya Premkumar**

caught in flagrante  
my husband's eyebrows  
in what's left of his hairline

**Tracy Davidson**

bay watch  
the boob tube  
is what it is

carolers  
singing, just singing  
in the rain

**Sarah E. Metzler**

so many years  
since that first kiss  
we go more slowly  
and I read to you aloud  
the raunchy new graffiti

political bombast  
teeth  
so white and straight

**Susan Yavaniski**

late stage capitalism  
planning the obsolescence  
of the moon

you're not the only one  
with a complicated identity  
rose geranium

**Joshua St. Claire**

wartime teen  
her shadow  
in her shadow

my reflection in his eyes  
when we quarrel —  
how small I can be

foster home  
without my sister  
I tell  
my nightmare  
to the moon

**Kelly Sargent**



**Maxianne Berger**

crow-caW  
learning the taste  
of whiskey neat

first stars  
the holes  
in your story

**B. L. Bruce**



someone  
I thought I knew  
eulogies

rejection notice...  
failed again  
at failed haiku

**David Josephsohn**

## **The Other Side**

Gravel crunches under my feet as I approach the last house on one of the few remaining unpaved streets in the city. I take the three rickety steps up to the unpainted front stoop and lift the lid of the rusty mailbox. Predictably, it squeaks. As at most houses on this block, I insert the daily allotment of past-due notices, court orders, church bulletins, credit offers, and holy-water advertisements. I glimpse someone through the front window curtains, but they don't acknowledge my presence nor I theirs. At last I return to the sorting center, once again more numb than the day before.

bare feet  
kids beg the postman  
for junk mail

**David Josephson**

new lawn chair  
new location  
no poetry

for old time's sake:  
I pull my uncle's quarter  
out of my own ear

extending New Year's  
through most of the month  
his worry beads

**Robert Epstein**

just the pianist  
and a bartender  
happy hour

new blade  
the sharper sting  
of the aftershave

**Ravi Kiran**

casting a shadow  
on another new year  
other people's wars

**Ingrid Baluchi**

final shift  
he rips the OSHA poster  
off the door

in jewelry box  
her first crush . . .  
twirling ballerina

**Roberta Beach Jacobson**

her slow walk downhill...  
at the bakery counter  
one German biscuit

**Tim Dwyer**

## Pickup Artists

The American tourist enters during morning coffee at Les Deux Maggots. I recognize the accent and shortly discover we are both midwesterners, wear the same brand of shoes and that we both like Bob Dylan. By mid afternoon, strolling along the Seine in a drizzling rain more coincidences are disclosed, we both have a tattoo and own a Toyota. Before turning off the light I ask "Is your dog Ollie also named after Oliver Cromwell ? "

listed for sale  
a book of poems  
inscribed to her  
the day we met  
in a Paris cafe

**John Budan**



caught in the act  
wild berries  
fall to the ground

**Debbie Olson**

he plays piano  
all I am  
falls away

romance novel  
your ripped photo  
a bookmark

**Sharon Ferrante**

approaching thunder . . .  
the cat and I  
strike sparks

predawn . . .  
our dead dog  
nudges my hand

**Jo McInerney**

airport business park  
plenty of businesses  
not much park

string quartet  
red head sets  
violin aflame

**Rohan Buettel**

battered guitar case  
the scars  
inside his song

the thorns  
of another apology  
another rose

**Gavin Austin**

goldfield's campsite  
striking it rich  
in flies

poets' wedding  
the juxtaposition  
of our vows

**Louise Hopewell**



sleepless  
wedding night -  
his lovely snores

Lavana Kray

**Lavana Kray**

to be or not to be  
a bridegroom at eighty -  
ambulance sound



Lavana Kray

**Lavana Kray**



walking on air  
his designer jeans  
on the clothesline

new shoes  
I'll probably never wear  
out

**Robert Witmer**

last call  
the slump of the pianist's  
shoulders

family reunion  
biting my tongue  
against their s in haikus

garage sale  
perched on the LPs  
a praying mantis

**Joshua Gage**

shapeshifting vampires  
controlling the underworld  
heavy metal goth

**Frank Hillyard**

a white pedalo  
far out in the bay  
I think they're naked

**Marcellin Dallaire-Beaumont**

astroturf apron  
at the grave's edge—  
what permanence is

**Michael J. Gallo**

dental chair  
the hole  
in my sock

re-tired

**Vandana Parashar**

fallen blossoms  
hide  
broken Buddha head

summer breeze  
moves gently—  
I sit, doing nothing

**Gil Jackofsky**

squeaky clothesline  
swaying in the wind  
a jar of nuthatches

**Rick Jackofsky**



double espresso . . .  
trying to recall the haiku  
I wrote in my dreams

first of January  
in the necklace of days  
our love is the thread

**Oscar Luparia**



dead or alive earth day

marilyn ashbaugh

time alone  
the battered barn  
caves in

**Marilyn Ashbaugh**

CT scan  
too late  
to start dating again

taking the next step breakfast

**Mark Teaford**



*#ouranniversary  
unpeeling s l o w l y  
the autumn sun*

**Steliana Cristina Voicu**

*everything must go* —  
in the half price aisle  
a robin's song

low winter sun  
she admires  
her thin shadow

**Ben Oliver**

gift

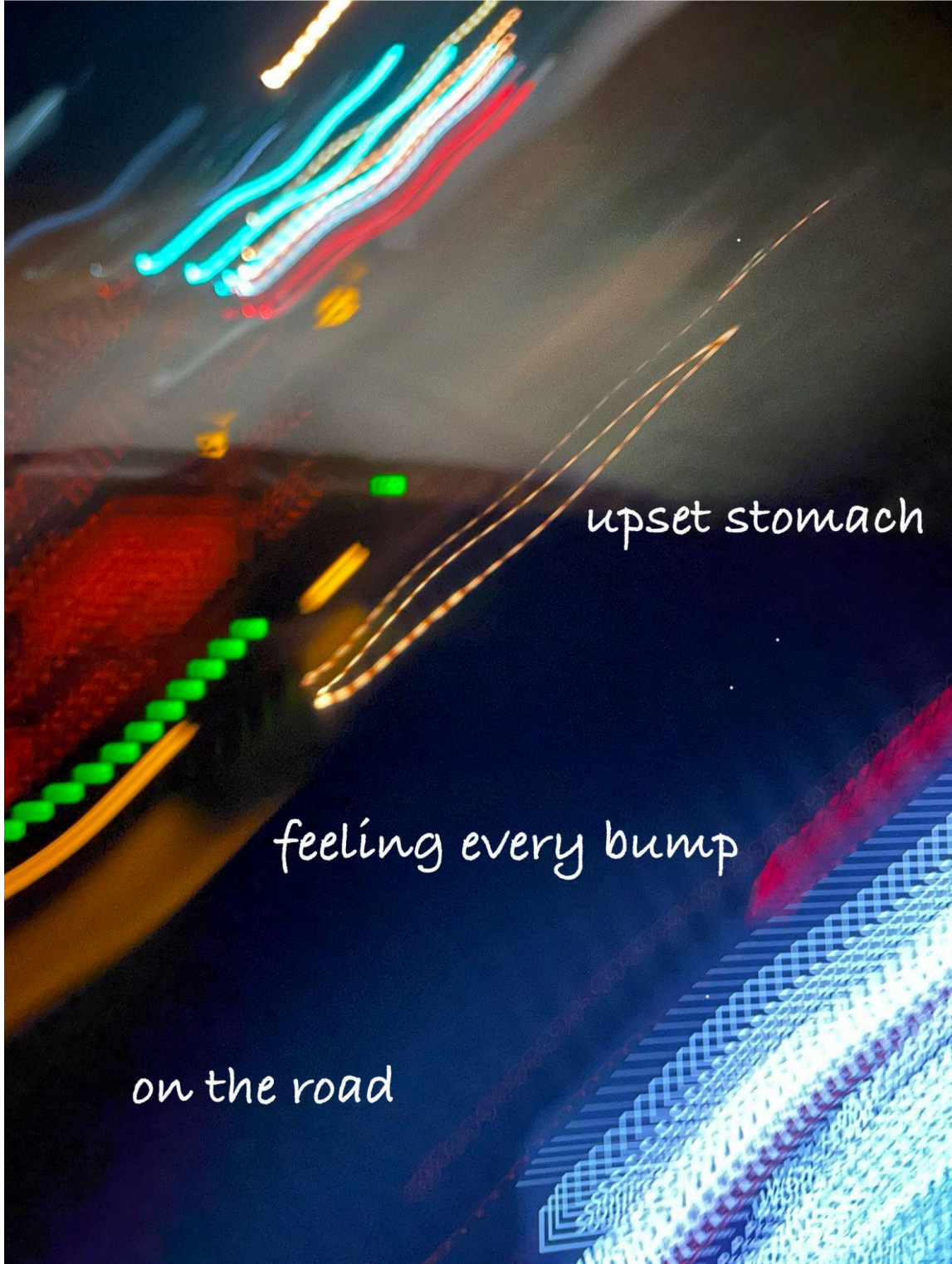
bow-tied bag of dog waste  
on a neighbor's lawn

**André Le Mont Wilson**

one room schoolhouse  
the pot-bellied stove  
after it sparks

parking space-time continuum

**Steve Bahr**



upset stomach

feeling every bump

on the road

**Anthony Lusardi**



taking vows  
for poorer  
in sickness

summer snow  
we don't accept senryu  
kind regards

**Jerome Berglund**

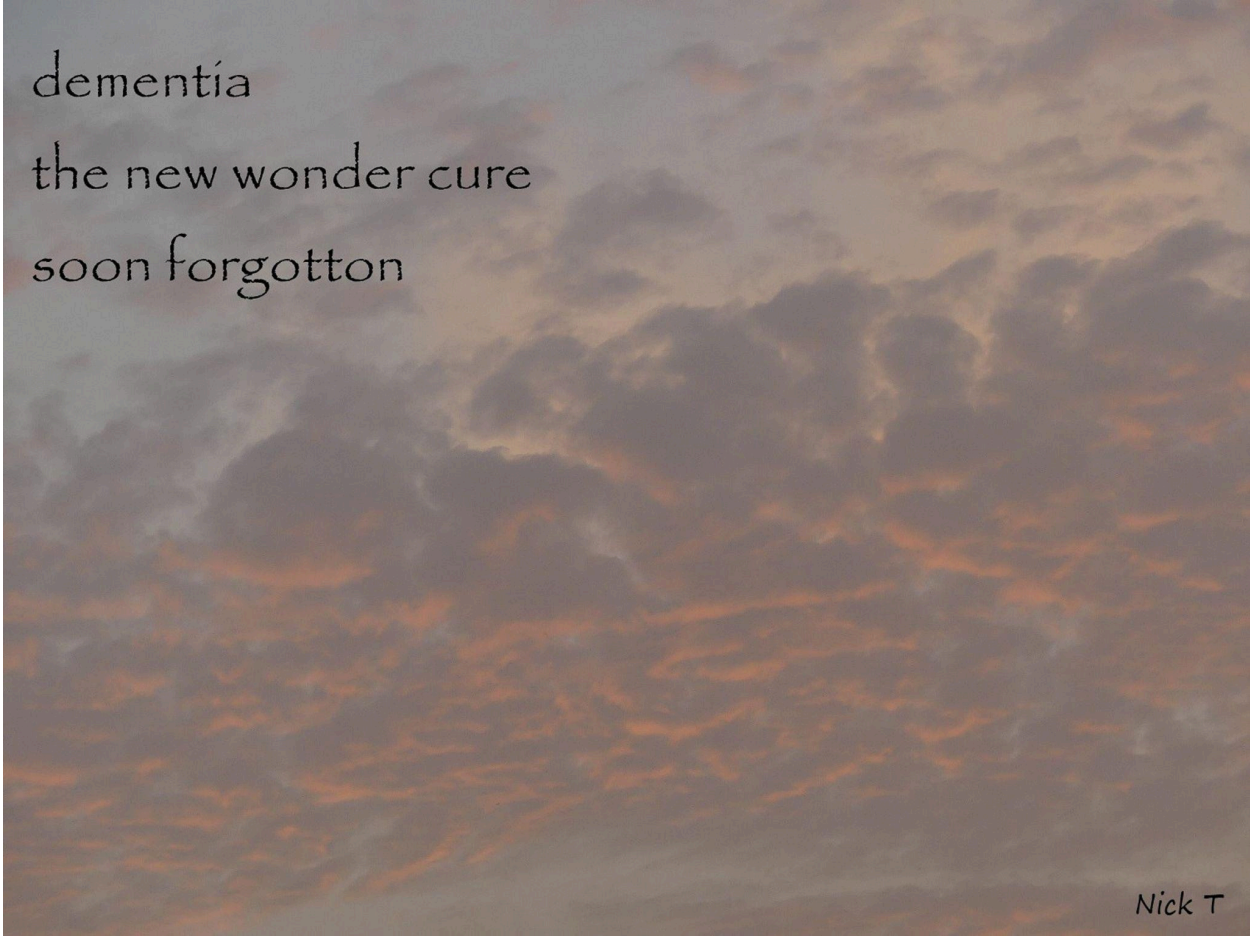
hostage killing  
a lifeline snaps  
back home

no matter what the straight face of AI anchor

**Arvinder Kaur**



**Nick T**



dementia  
the new wonder cure  
soon forgotten

*Nick T*

**Nick T**

ice fishing  
the catch and release  
of breath

zombie fire  
the pain that comes back  
to life

**Debbie Strange**

morning tea  
the empty pot  
full of meaning

**Shawn Blair**

oil spill fish blowing bazooka bubbles

**Elliot Diamond**

gobsmacked

gran's bedside table

CBD edibles

**Caroline Giles Banks**



genome study  
in my DNA  
strands of poetry

unaware  
of my diagnosis  
this season's rain

white clover coming clean of carcinoma

**Teji Sethi**

snow nearly covers  
the salt marsh stubble...  
granddad's chin

all you are  
to me  
hyacinth dusk

**Deborah Burke Henderson**

tornado after-math  
our talk revolves around  
what was insured

lunch time  
I eat all the treats  
in *failed haiku*

tear stains on page 100  
the novelists killed  
another good character

**Wilbert Salgado**

very fine line  
between collection  
and obsession

**Jennifer Gurney**

sunroom . . .  
nothing bad  
happens here

pulling a rabbit  
out of his hat  
dad's empty promises

**Barrie Levine**

new year's  
another buck enters  
the *no swear* can

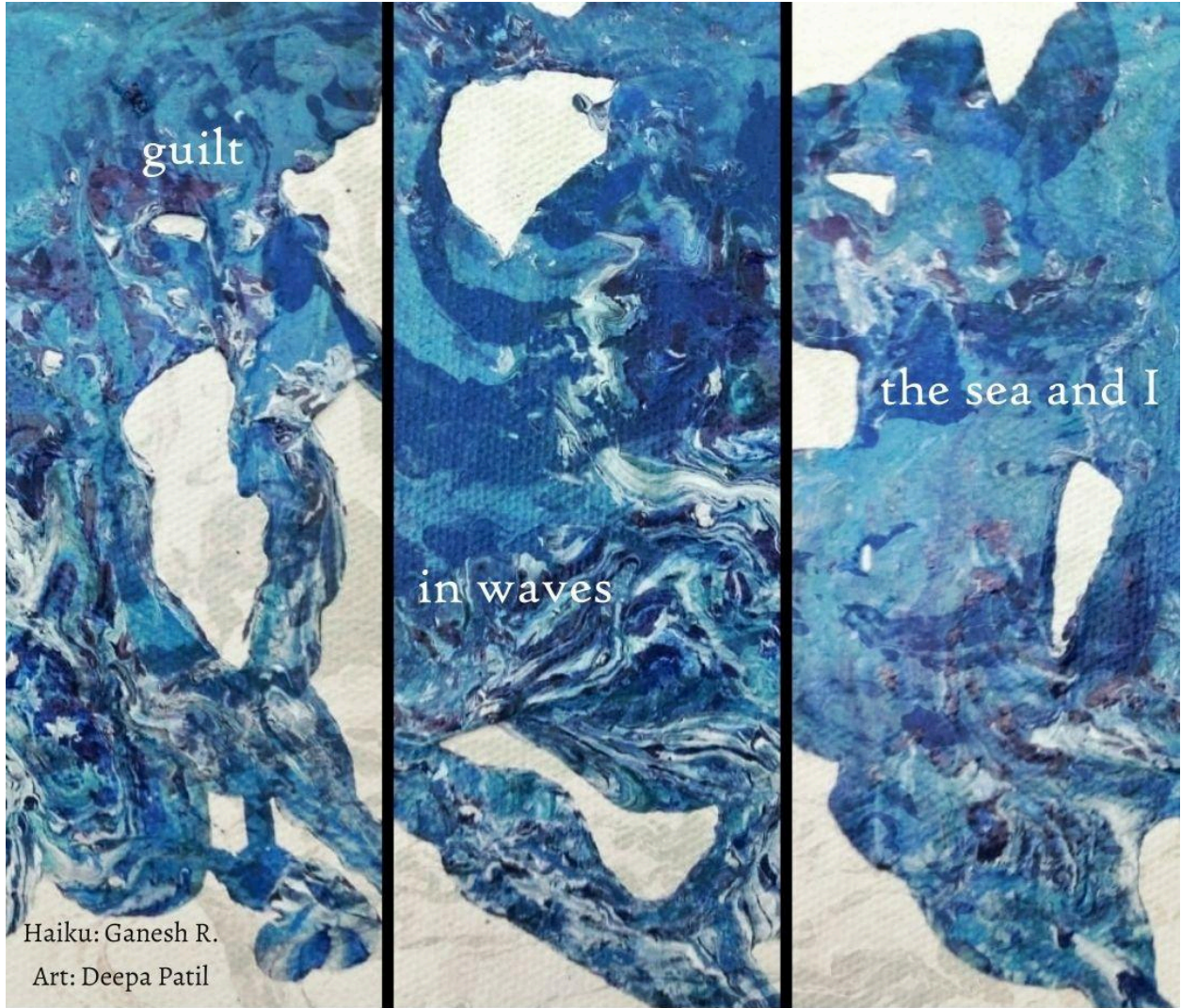
flapping sheets  
the dog earns another  
blame treat

**Richard L. Matta**

dead heat ---  
headlights racing  
hills on fire

the  
sky  
falls  
into  
ashen  
streets  
faraway  
fires

**Lev Hart**



**Ganesh R.**  
**Deepa Patil**



## RETROGRADE MOTION

She had adopted a feral cat. A bowl of milk on her porch  
every day for years. Never got friendly, but it could be seen  
through  
the patio door with a milk mustache. She had called it  
Mustache Cat

hair thin and white  
stooped gait  
no longer

**John C. Waugh**

shooting range  
six consecutive head shots by  
a rape victim

urine stench within urine stench  
I use the restroom at  
mom's nursing home

thaw  
icicles drop from  
a dead street person

**John J. Dunphy**

New Year's Eve dance...  
strangers pull in  
tenderly

**Mary Theis**

where it hurts the most weasel words

modern history —  
one nation then another  
speaks in bombs

**Lorin Ford**

communion line  
the strong scent  
of Old Spice

Christmas Eve  
barely dressed people work the cold  
hoping for a Santa

**Joseph P. Wechselberger**

between sobs  
it  
was  
my  
father  
I was only five

**Jan Stretch**

torrential rain  
the campsite stained  
with memories  
of all those summer  
love affairs

masquerade party  
the lovesick teen sneezes  
behind his skull mask

**Cynthia Rowe**

a little girl  
giggles at my address  
Jingle Pot Road

**Rupa Anand**



spaghetti squash  
declining  
the to-go box

tabla rasa  
a new day dawns at  
the memory center

**Michael Henry Lee**

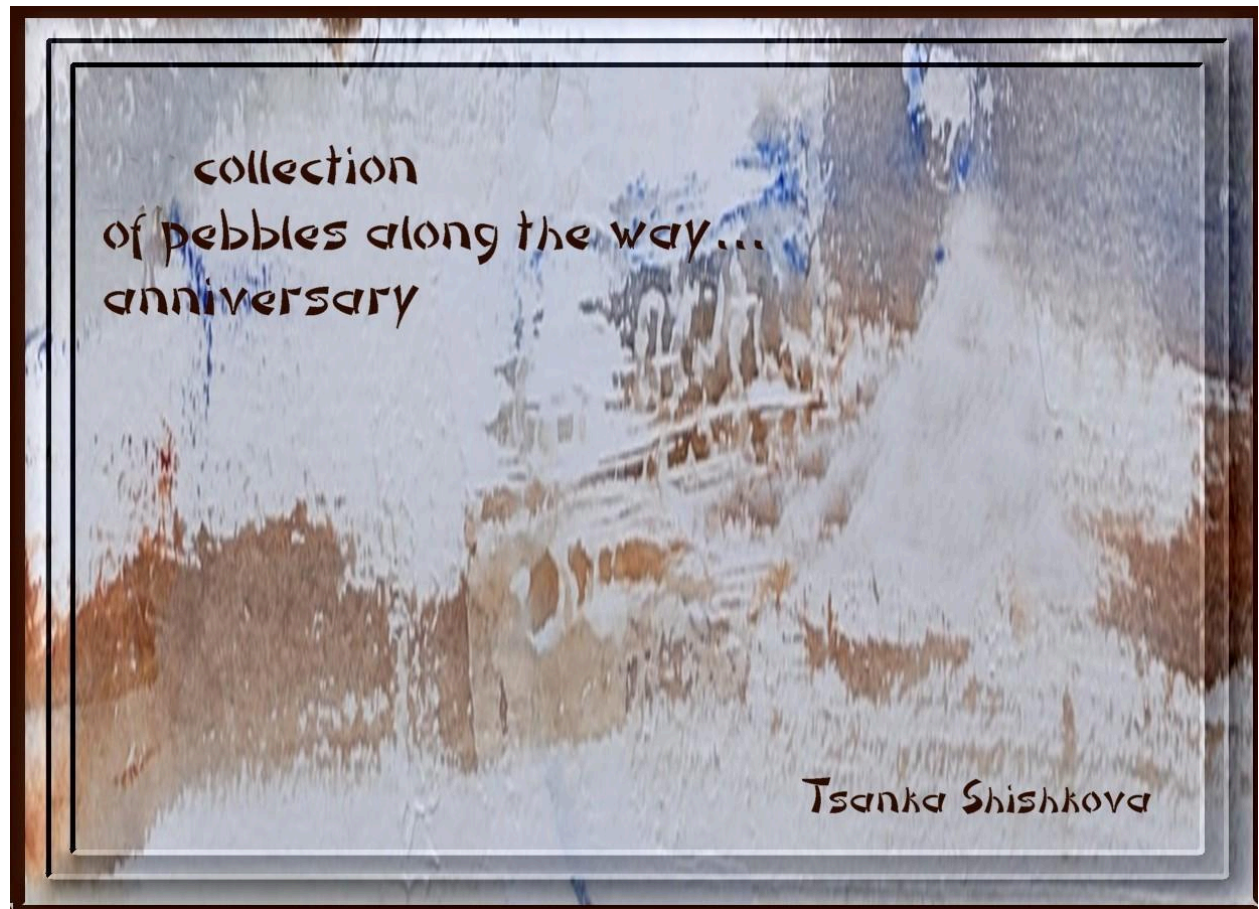
icy pavement  
a walk becomes a ride  
to the emergency room

retirement  
enjoying the full time  
coffee klatsch

**Nina Kovačić**

after his death  
a few songs  
without notes

**David Watts**



collection  
of pebbles along the way...  
anniversary

Tsanka Shishkova

**Tsanka Shishkova**

fresh snow  
the deeper white  
of your lies

grammar lessons  
the teacher skips  
the pronouns

**Alvin B. Cruz**

off switch  
escape from  
escapism

winter rain  
my neighbor coming  
through the wall

sales call  
laughing at a joke  
I don't get

**Tim Cremin**

twelve days of Christmas  
taking the holidays  
one step at a time

king-size bed frame  
at the dumpster...  
portrait of a marriage

**Laurie Greer**

a kid's bike  
dumped on the sidewalk ...  
remembering how to cry

at recess  
winning that race  
against a girl

**Mark Gilbert**



school library—  
checking out  
a parent's complaint

storyteller—  
even the campfire smoke  
leans in

**Mark Forrester**

old growth forest--  
arguing our way  
through it

ad in the mail  
for an adventure cruise--  
that ship has sailed

**Ruth Holzer**

car unlocked  
windows down  
and still no one  
takes our teething  
toddler

ag talk show:  
*herd it*  
*through the bovine*

**Curt Pawlisch**

pension freeze...

I wear my coat

indoors

**Tony Williams**

stretching the truth  
adding more slack  
to my seatbelt

substitute teacher  
let the games  
begin

**Sharon Martina**

church windows  
the ravishing colors  
of a hanging

hive  
minding  
my manners

souvenir conch  
an earful  
at customs

the piano  
the movers  
eye with dread  
incidental music  
between each stair

**Mike White**

hot chocolate  
as close to heaven  
as I'll ever get

earthquake  
a longtime friend  
on life support

**William Scott Galasso**

blessed Father  
sneezes out the Paschal candle  
Transubstantiation

**Ron Scully**



she liked my personality  
but she didn't  
say which one

Sunday morning  
no breakfast in bed  
said the IKEA staff

yoga teacher crush  
it puts me  
in awkward positions

first time skiing  
I'm head over heels  
for a second

**Birk Andersson**

swiping on Tinder—  
she excels at pairing wine  
with dessert

reading hate poem—  
the taste of blood  
between the pauses

**Ron Nhim**

snipping labels  
from the emperor's new clothes  
crypto fraud

valentine's day  
winning his heart  
of chocolate

**Alanna C. Burke**

the holidays  
planning time with family  
at the liquor store

**Jon Hare**

she tightens  
her grip on my arm  
the scary part

Brazilian Blowout  
I close my eyes and take a deep breath  
before looking at the bill

**M. R. Defibaugh**

boxed candles  
the ribbon loosening  
of our love

**Joanna Ashwell**

hoeing the garden  
I speak about philosophy  
to earthworms

**Stefano d'Andrea**

dying brother—  
I shuffle  
through winter grays

**Susan Lee Roberts**



winkle picking  
mum asks if I'm going out  
like that...

role playing—  
my husband shouts 'erecto'  
as he takes the blue pill

**Adele Evershed**

## **A teenager in love \***

Sunday morning, outside in the front yard, pulling weeds. I look up to see a car float by and slow to a stop. The face behind the wheel - - that bombastic beehive, the bee-stung lips, kohl-black batwing eyeliner- - I'd know her anywhere. It's Amy Winehouse, and she's in my dad's crappy old brown '62 BelAir and she's smiling seductively at me. But how can it be? How can I still be 16 when it's 2024, I'm a balding geezer, and both Amy and Dad are long gone?

*friday night fever  
this was your brain  
on testosterone*

**Mark Meyer**

\*song by Dion (DiMucci) and the Belmonts; 1959

silk pajamas softening her rough patch

double bagging the weight of my despair

**Peter Jastermsky**

**his town unknown wind chimes**



**Richa Sharma**

and  
then  
death  
finds  
me  
anhedonia

**Surashree Joshi**

winter horizon  
I can barely see  
beyond brown

first snow  
my shoes untied  
in old galoshes

**Jamie Wimberly**

biting frost  
another urgent call  
from the lawyer

**Deborah Karl-Brandt**

Carried away—  
the balloon filled  
with a dream

**M. R. Pelletier**



early goodbye...  
on the small shroud  
weight of petals

**Neena Singh**

happy hour  
another glass  
of whatever

Easter morning  
Mother warns us not to love  
the chick to death

hump day  
steady rain drowns out  
the alarm

line for coffee  
a woman in a tight dress  
says something

**Bob Lucky**

sprigs and tacks  
the difference between gone  
with the old cobbler

drawing a blank in his pocket fumbles the best man

**Mike Gallagher**

one minute  
until half-time  
restroom rush

short one pink sock  
Nana sends out  
the search party

**Susan Farner**

winter morning  
the hummingbirds emerge  
from our torpor

blue hour  
the last drink  
before lent

**Sarah Paris**

so excited  
to go for a car ride . . .  
the dog in me

I really believed  
we'd stay together—  
cracked asphalt

mindless tasks  
sweeping away  
thoughts of you

**Julie Bloss Kelsey**

old album  
those teenage years  
hardly missed

泛黃相冊  
不堪回首的  
年輕時光

**Sherry Grant**

laundry/sorting/my/thoughts

the poem  
steeping  
a cup of tea

aroused  
by the start  
of his engine

**Denise Fontaine-Pincince**



## **Evidence**

By examining the pock marks on her pubic bone and elasticity of her uterus, doctors can determine if a woman has had children. This is a thought I have when considering expanding our family. If I am killed or go missing, the scientist can stumble on my bones and may not know who I am but at least say:

She is a mother to multiple offspring.

morning thunder  
I crack twins  
into the pancake mix

**Caroline NACHEM**

objects closer  
than they seem--  
my hometown

80 this year--  
where have i been  
all my life

yesterday--  
i cannot leave  
things alone.

**Sondra J. Byrnes**

next gen bomber  
Grandpapa folds  
the paper airplane

**Heather Lurie**

mom's best vase  
still waiting for dad  
to bring roses

bewildered  
the tarot reader  
re-shuffles

twirling forks  
the spaghetti sauce  
takes flight

**Stephanie Zepherelli**

red light a yank in the young man's trunks

pit song

whistling down

the canary's voice

**Robert Kingston**

test results ...  
touch of her hand  
on my shoulder

**Tuyet Van Do**

seeing the girl  
in grandma's smile  
matryoshka dolls

growing older  
all the joys  
of forgetting

**Lori Kiefer**

funeral  
that song she'll never sing again

**Francoise Maurice**



concert hall ...  
a glimpse of my first love  
sends heartbeat presto

**Natalia Kuznetsova**

meeting in the middle  
your old-age belly  
and mine

reheating  
last night's supper  
she brings it up again

**Lourie August**

between workout rounds  
we drift across to say hi —  
baby in the gym

a candle for my sister  
white among the red —  
convent church

**Maeve O'Sullivan**

roaring twenties  
a different roar  
this time

zodiac loop  
another  
Year of the Swift

no phone booth  
superman pays for coffee  
to use the restroom

**Ramund Ro**

her suicide note  
protesting Vietnam  
sent to the wrong address

**Robert Hirschfield**

retirement  
polishing the silverware  
we no longer use

eternity

it takes

a leaf

to fall

five people

dead

on earth

this morning's update  
the computer tells me  
I'm 0% there

**Keith Evetts**

skipping  
in childhood  
record player

new beginnings  
the exterminator's  
yearly visit

**Eavonka Ettinger**

crossing the dark night of the soul Starlink

oven bag stewing in my own juices

**Cynthia Anderson**



the naked city  
two house flies  
decoupling

school closed the morning of gunmetal

freezing rain  
a curbside couch  
still there

**petro c. k.**

pumpkin tendrils —  
the creep  
of old age

**Bonnie J Scherer**

coconut moon  
the steel drum band  
pings a melody

the goldfish  
in a bowl . . .  
loneliness

**Valentina Ranaldi-Adams**

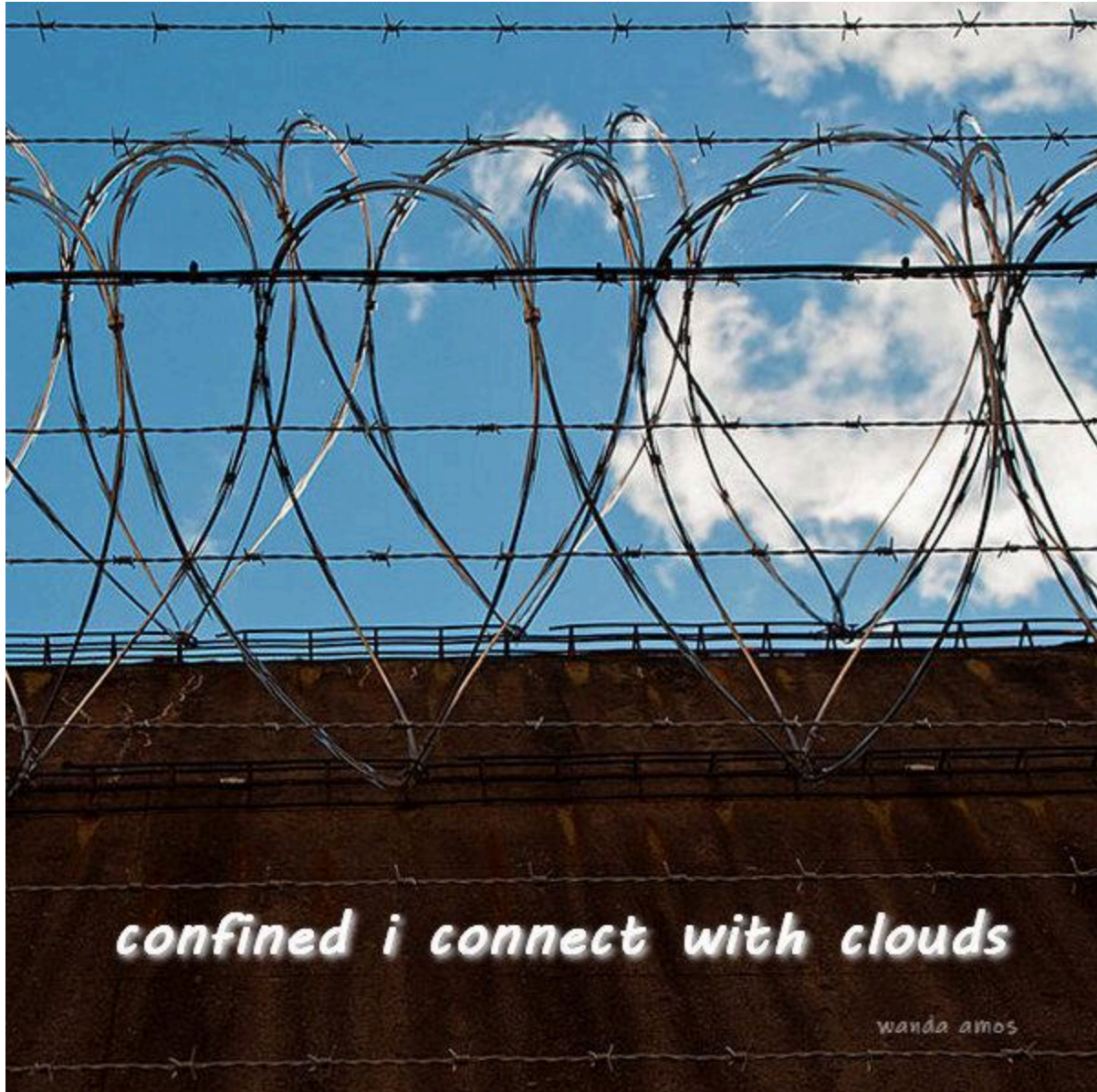
more phases of our love  
than of the moon  
lunar eclipse

more holes on the wall  
than on the dartboard  
nursing home rec room

**Douglas J. Lanzo**

second miscarriage -  
the wind chimes-  
translate our silence

**Ram Chandran**



feeling the power  
of being on top  
—jungle gym

**Wanda Amos**

more war news...  
holding the arm  
of a stranger

night winds  
lengthening the draw  
on his harmonica

all the places  
you don't touch  
lingering frost

**C.X. Turner**

lost for six months  
my most favorite  
sunglasses

no published work  
still great at  
teaching poetry

cancer diagnosis  
her jigsaw puzzle  
left unsolved

bedridden with cancer  
watching people go  
to the movies

**John J. Han**



sons' rooms  
a sniff job  
for laundering

**Kalyanee Arandhara**

the poet is gone  
his verses  
unfortunately linger

bestselling  
poetry  
saccharine high

**Mike Fainzilber**

breadstick snap . . .  
wondering if I live more  
haiku or senryu moments

**Daniela Misso**

sneaking it into the AMVETS box my husband's ugly  
tie

my first deep dive  
into philosophy  
I come up sputtering

**Wilda Morris**

nit picking  
the frayed end  
of an oriental rug

winter night  
the wind  
...it's only the wind

**Jay Friedenberg**

## Derby Day

buttercream frosting  
on the upper crust



moments  
before full chameleon  
rehearsal dinner

**Senryu: Lorraine A Padden**  
**Photograph: Diane Fine**

zazen

I practice to ignore  
the spider

**Eva Limbach**

misunderstood  
the love bites  
of a praying mantis

**Alfred Booth**



her sudden smile outside the curricula

always the other of each other

**Vijay Prasad**

housing crisis  
a three-person wait to see  
the cardboard box

**adele nwankwo**

thistles . . .  
behind my back  
the gossip

**Meera Rehm**

winter morning  
the homeless man makes  
the cardboard bed

**Mona Jordan**

wedding anniversary a meerkat pops its head up

**Vishal Prabhu**

outside the court  
my ex lights a cigarette  
from mine

high school yearbook  
this love-hate relationship  
with my punk self

**Chen-ou Liu**

election campaign  
*they* scratch  
a healed wound

**Tazeen Fatma**

footprints on the icy pond one direction only

cross-state drive  
I find a graveyard  
for company

nude beach  
a man arranges himself just so  
on a boulder

**Doris Jean Lynch**



the stone frog  
has sore eyes--  
red moon

**federico c. peralta**

tall pines  
first mountain trail  
with dad's walking stick

glowing embers--  
we huddle around  
mother's memory

**Stephenie Story**

jigsaw puzzle . . .  
piece by piece  
we rebuild  
our childhood

tan lines  
fading out  
an alternate reality

**Nicola Schaum**

sparing a millipede  
I try walking  
in its shoes

snowy park  
the variety  
of dog jackets

**Tomislav Sjekloća**

knitting needles clicking petty gossip

**Patricia Daharsh**

retirement  
walking off into the sunset  
day after day

election rallying around the lowest common  
denominator again

**Ruchita Madhok**

sigh  
when she says “hi handsome”  
I know it’s a scam

**David Oates**

grandma's scarf  
in rainbow colors  
the scarecrow

**Wiesław Karliński**



of all the graves  
in all the graveyards  
this mockingbird

Epiphany  
three burned out bulbs  
on a string

moving day  
the cat unpacks  
in the flower bed

**LeRoy Gorman**

a fly  
eats my broth in silence...  
mimicry?

**Eugeniusz Zacharski**

washing dishes  
she comes clean  
about the affair

**Kevin Valentine**

the street poet's dog  
its rump covered  
in chalk dust

**Erica Ison**

school vacation  
the sound of a horse race  
down the stairs

allowing myself  
to reinvent something new  
an empty nest

**Lakshmi Iyer**

late night concert  
a dancer's ghungroos  
scatter the stars

**Mona Bedi**

winter wind—  
the smallest headstone  
marked *baby*

a pouring out of sympathy chimney swifts

open windows  
bluebird and bach  
briefly in key

**John Pappas**

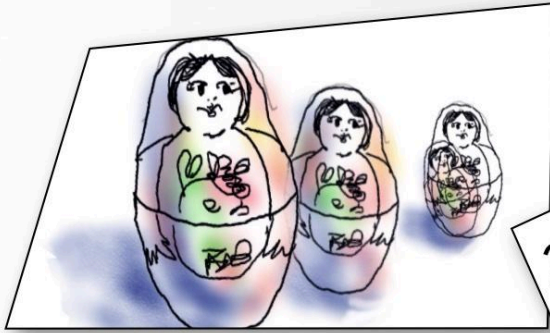
receiving the bill  
cardiac stress test  
part two

mimicking bird calls  
everyone thinks  
I'm cuckoo

how long  
till they come for me  
the villagers  
tired of this monster  
living in their midst

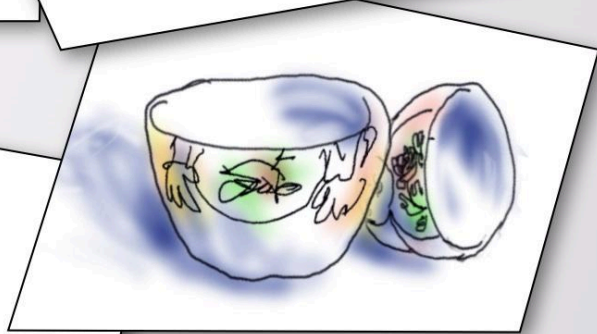
**Bryan Rickert**



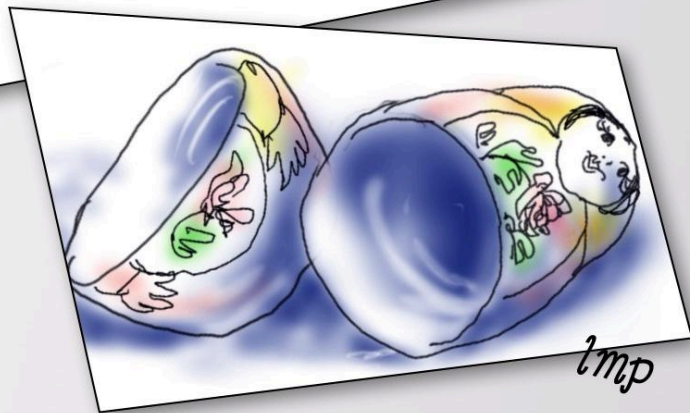


war, politics . . .

all news  
all the time



does that pundit  
really know  
what he's talking about?



Linda Papanicolaou

## *Cherita Salon*

adding more weights  
to the bar

i push away  
the truth i've always  
known

*he never loved me*

**Thomas Haynes**

living grief

all the things  
my Dad misses

the double whammy  
of deafness  
and dementia

**Tracy Davidson**

telling the children  
to keep his marriage  
a secret

all the red flags

that make up  
a man

**Thomas Haynes**

lonesome

her only conversation  
that day

with a man  
punching a hole  
in her one-way ticket

**Tracy Davidson**

winter sunset

a scoop  
of red marzipan

popped on  
stacked strips  
of colored cookie dough

**Peter Larsen**

a stern minister

glares down his pulpit  
at a flock of sinners

fearing damnation  
I shield my breasts  
from his piercing eyes

**John Budan**

deep cleaning

the knickknack  
cabinet

a rat's nest  
lined with feathers  
I collected

**Sarah E. Metzler**

mothers advice

eat everything  
on your plate

people in china  
and now America  
are starving

**John Budan**

Cuban bullfrog

croaking  
in the sawgrass

I stare  
into midnight  
missing my love

**Colleen Farrelly**

wet quill  
in the inkwell

great-grandpa's love letters

I wonder  
what life they'd have lived  
without the war

**Colleen Farrelly**

shooting stars

a wolf  
howls in the distance

alone on the ranch  
I wonder if grandad  
got his last wish

**Colleen Farrelly**

gravity waves

twenty years  
since I held you

a mother robin  
chirping  
at her lost nest

**Colleen Farrelly**

wintertime

feeding  
the birds

the rats  
in the vicinity,  
too

**Pitt Buerken**

a witch's story

I wrap myself  
in mother's white scarf

death  
never takes  
the scent of lavender

**Sharon Ferrante**

mailbox

I put  
my scripture  
inside

now I'm waiting  
what eventuates

**Pitt Buerken**

spring cycle

riding  
by the lake

the humiliation  
being attacked  
by ducks

**Rohan Buettel**

another midnight

she worries  
for him

the son  
who cannot love  
for fear of loss

**Gavin Austin**

the road to truth

a woeful knight  
tilting at windmills

dream fragment  
reaching  
to touch - nothing

**Gil Jackofsky**

first sunrise

I pink-tint  
the new year

with extra  
blush  
on my cheeks

**Jackie Chou**

ghost town tour

an abandoned barn  
with peeling red paint

a wisteria swinging  
its blue blossoms  
for itself and me

**John Zheng**

overnight snow

in this mountain village  
lying awake listening

the sound of scrapes  
as the priest clears a way  
to the church door

**Ingrid Baluchi**

a monologue  
after a heartbreak

my parakeet  
wonders why  
those who are free

also cry

**Arvinder Kaur**

Didn't  
I know?

— she asks me

to put  
my hand on  
her belly

**Jerome Berglund**

distant distinct finger whistle

a signal at long last  
he's home from deployment

at the stream's edge  
a young boy double knots  
his shoelaces

**Richard L. Matta**

the scantily clad  
divorcee across the street

works in her front yard

collecting  
autumn leaves  
and admiring glances

**Keitha Keyes**

zoom countdown

tidy up the background  
pop on a bra  
splash on some makeup

turn on the computer  
... smile

**Keitha Keyes**

Christmas

too much food  
too much time

spent  
with people  
we are supposed to love

**Keitha Keyes**

I check

yesterday's newspaper  
for today's forecast

to see  
how accurate  
the weatherman was

**Keitha Keyes**



the dampness  
of a west coast winter  
in her eyes

young children  
search for their father

in the night sky

**Jan Stretch**

i lay  
my words  
advisedly

like stones

into the ocean  
of stillness

**Eva Joan**

a chorus of crickets

outside my window  
lulls me toward sleep

one  
under my dresser  
keeps me awake

**Tim Cremin**

commencement

diplomas  
wrapped in a red ribbon

scallops  
wrapped in bacon  
banquet style

**Ron Scully**

memories...

a shoreline

dotted with rock pools

the briny – ozone aroma

and rotting seaweed

lapping waves over my feet

**Marilyn Humbert**

starting again

counting the ways

it could have been

different

the list growing

after dark

**Peter Jastermsky**

of all

the joys

I have

lost

now

you

**Peter Jastermsky**

emptying

the satchel

that one piece

of paper

with her last address

still missing

**Peter Jastermsky**

dogs follow  
the scent

left on a shoestring

the blue moon  
keeps on  
shining

**M. R. Defibaugh**

old banyan  
the roots anchor

deep within

the stories  
that hibernate  
for years

**Neena Singh**

at the museum

I strike the same pose  
as the statue of a Kore

what if I stood  
forever stone-faced  
slightly smiling

**Marie Derley**

she died

an illness with no  
medical miracle

memories pour  
from a broken heart  
in an empty house

**Susan Farner**

winter warmth

the hearth burning  
with woodblocks

only dreams separate  
the wheat from the chaff  
in our time together

**Adrian Bouter**

the tennis court  
empty  
of familiar faces

*I tell a stranger  
I like his racket*

my new pickup line

**Jackie Chou**

*Kathabela Wilson*

in the garden

sunny periods  
and showers

I never know  
what sparrows find  
to chat about

**Keith Evetts**

50 years later

tracked down  
by an old lover

if I don't answer  
he assures me  
he'll take it in stride

**Cynthia Anderson**

walking in circles  
throwing side glances

wondering

wherever  
did the shyness  
go

**Robin Valtiala**

as an ill omen

they burn  
her carcass

scorpions  
always travel  
in pairs

**Audrey Quinn**

mother

always knew  
we were family

even after  
she forgot  
our names

**Wilda Morris**

in the graveyard

giant allium orbs  
line our path

we vow  
to live  
louder

**Audrey Quinn**

softly embracing  
against the shore

the melodic waves

when from your lips  
i hear  
my name

**Nitu Yumnam**

ginseng root tea  
for the immortality

my family tradition

my late father  
drank it  
to his final day

**Wonja Brucker**

crowded elevator

Kurt Cobain sings  
"No I don't have a gun,

No, I don't have a gun"  
years after  
inside steel walls

**David Oates**

tighter than

a child's hold  
on a balloon string

you were never  
mine to keep  
letting go letting go

**Lafcadio**

the way

they always travel  
together

her bike's  
odometer reading  
a kilometre between his

**Jenny Fraser**

too sick  
to go on

opening  
the childproof  
medicine bottle

nearly kills me

**Bryan Rickert**

**Bryan Rickert** 'Failed' Editor  
[editor@failedhaiku.com](mailto:editor@failedhaiku.com)  
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