

MONTAGE

This Week's Montage

—THF

Comparative Haiku

selected by

Allan Burns

This week's gallery features haiku by three volunteers at The Haiku Foundation: web administrator Dave Russo; secretary Billie Wilson; and blog editor Scott Metz. I asked the poets to make their own selections and to provide a brief introductory personal statement:

"I've been writing haiku for about twelve years. During that time, I've been the web master for the North Carolina Haiku Society, the Haiku Society of America, Red Moon Press, Haiku North America, and now The Haiku Foundation. After more than a decade as a weekend webmaster, I wanted to move away from the approach where a single volunteer formats and publishes everything on an organization's website. Accordingly, an important goal for The Haiku Foundation is to enable contributors to publish their own content on the website with little or no intervention by the webmaster."—Dave Russo

"I was born in 1941, grew up in rural Indiana, and moved to Alaska in 1962. I live in Juneau with my husband Gary, who grew up in North Dakota. All three locations influence my haiku, which I first attempted in the 1960s. I now consider those early efforts as 'haiku-shaped poetry' rather than true haiku. The gift of mentoring so generously offered by Robert Spiess inspired a deeper appreciation of the haiku potential as well as the desire to learn more. Discovering the worldwide haiku community in 1997 sparked that appreciation into passion."—Billie Wilson

"I am the editor of *Roadrunner* and the founder and coeditor of *MASKS*. I recently started a blog, *lakes & now wolves*, where I am creating an ever-expanding, live collection of my work. I also serve as the blog editor for The Haiku Foundation. I start off each new round of *Virals* and also, so far, put together each installment of *Envoys*. My first large collection of work, *a sealed jar of mustard seeds*, served as issue number 9 (winter 2009) of *ant ant ant ant ant*, edited by Chris Gordon."—Scott Metz

Dave Russo (b. 1952)

Billie Wilson (b. 1941)

Scott Metz (b. 1976)

dirt road moon
frogs we gigged
heavy in the bag

sound of the river
smoothing these boulders
the wind takes it

sawdust and piss
the Siberian tiger
stares at a baby

death of an old friend
a train's horn
through miles of sleet

watching the flowers
come and go
headstone angels

summer dusk
guinea hens chase the sun
down a backstreet

sun in the bones
of a darting minnow
my cell phone rings

1 from *Simply Haiku* 4.4, 2006
2 from *Frogpond* 23.2, 2000
3 from *Modern Haiku* 36.1, 2005
4 from *Acorn* 14, 2005
5 from *Modern Haiku* 40.2, 2009
6 from *Chasing the Sun* (Rosenberry Books, 2009)
7 from *A New Resonance* 5 (Red Moon Press, 2007)

no wind tonight
across this reach of prairie
all those stars

supper cooking—
a wind with storm in it
comes through the wheat

flattened grass
where the bear slept
stink of salmon

pale moon the thinning of days into winter

sun tea darkens—
bees in the hollyhocks
all afternoon

prairie dusk—
the rustle of field mice
wintering in

whalebone
from a beach near Savoonga—
winter rain

1 from *Blithe Spirit* 12.2, 2002
2 from *The Heron's Nest* 5.8, 2003
3 from *The Heron's Nest* 4.8, 2002
4 from *Acorn* 20, 2008
5 from *Acorn* 16, 2006
6 from *The Haiku Calendar 2003* (Snapshot Press)
7 Harold G. Henderson Award, 2003, First Place

a child's drawing—
the ladder to the sun
only three steps

somewhere
fireflies are
eating rhinos

lakes
& now wolves
entering Pegasus

green noise that hole she left in me

first violet—
my grandmother
every time

on the blue apple
the spider dreams dreams
in shades of blue

the city's moan
phosphorescent
first snow

1 from "The Youngest Ones" (tribe press, 2005)
2 from *NOON: journal of the short poem* 5, 2007
3 from *Roadrunner* 8.4, 2008
4 from "remixed haiku," *ant ant ant ant ant* 9, www.antantantant.wordpress.com, 2009
5 from *The Heron's Nest* 7.3, 2005
6 from *ginyu* 42, 2009
7 from *Modern Haiku* 40.2, 2009

Previous Montages

November 1: *The Europeans*
November 8: *With a Smile*

Next Week's Montage: *Three Women*

Sandra Simpson
Virginia Brady Young
Eve Luckring