

The *Haiku* Foundation *HaikuNow!* International Haiku Contest 2010

*First Prize
Traditional
Category*



war memorial
the shine on a bronze soldier
from so many hands

Cherie Hunter Day

*Runners-Up
Traditional
Category*

the rare kimono
our eyes roll over its hills
flowers and mountains

John Tiong Chung Hoo

the leaf blower man—
when he turns and walks away
the leaves follow him

Madeleine Findlay

vernal equinox:
sharing a branch an orange
and orange blossom

Victor Ortiz

The morning is here—
Orange Juice in a Flintstones glass.
What should I do next?

Cory Ryant

Judge's Comments: I found so many of the haiku entries not only nicely poised but arresting. I chose the one about the war memorial because it allowed a small observation (the shiny bronze) to ripple out to a very heavy subject indeed, the kind of ponderous subject that haiku is usually too small to contain. The one featuring the surprising appearance of a Flintstones glass showed the American side of haiku; plus the clueless speaker appears to be in a perfectly empty-headed haiku state of mind. The kimono poem made me slightly dizzy in the way it rolled over the landscape which was both real and fabricated, in this case, made of fabric. The leaf blower man made me laugh out loud, which is the preferred reaction to a haiku that is really not trying to be "funny;" I love its odd mix of absurdity and empathy. It was the sheer "obviousness" of the orange haiku that got me: imagine an orange and an orange blossom on the same tree, a true haiku eye-opener!

— Billy Collins

The *Haiku* Foundation *HaikuNow!* International Haiku Contest 2010

First Prize
Contemporary
Category



distant thunder
the future
in my bones

Lorin Ford

Runners-Up
Contemporary
Category

night swimming
losing ourselves
in the darkness

Vanessa Proctor

the Big Dipper—
rows of corn connect
farm to farm

Chad Lee Robinson

her pain wakes me
a cockroach escapes
from the light

Rosie Roumeliotis

milky way
what I don't know
I don't know

Nora Wood

Judge's Comments: I had a lot of difficulty choosing one poem over several others in this category. I felt the work was all of a piece, all high quality, and I had to sleep on this several days before one emerged from the pack. I love the immersion of "night swimming," how its darkness is both enveloping and at the same time welcoming. "her pain wakes me" is a novella in a few words, and captures a scene vividly and tellingly. The amorphous quality of the "milky way" perfectly mirrors the aperçu of the poet, making something fresh of one of the most common images in poetry. And the way we create and recognize pattern, amongst the stars, say, or between our own earthly designs, attracted me strongly to "the Big Dipper." It was, in fact, this same sense of connectedness that convinced me that "distant thunder" was my first choice. Many of us have had this same experience, knowing in our joints what will be. This poem captures it for us perfectly.

— Jim Kacian

The *Haiku* Foundation *HaikuNow!* International Haiku Contest 2010

*First Prize
Innovative
Category*



what we say
pear blossom

what we do
in winter

Olga Dugan

*Runners-Up
Innovative
Category*

a rake in hand . . . the duck's mind

Tom Clausen

salt wind ripples on an inner lake

Cherie Hunter Day

flipped boxcars God doesn't play dice . . .

Scott Mason

dawn bumps the Jesus fish

H. Gene Murtha

Judge's Comments: Being innovative on command is not a skill I possess. Being innovative in a genre with established strictures daunts me even more. So it is not very surprising if most of the poems in this category were only mildly innovative, and then generally in one area, content. As life presents us with ever-new and -changing aspects, finding something to write that's never been done before is a real possibility, and most of the poets here did exactly that, or else found novel ways to posit their images on the mind's retina. "flipped boxcars" for instance puns on a famous quotation and misleads the reader, for a moment, into seeing something other than what is intended. "a rake in hand" puts me in mind of the famous essay "What Is It Like to Be a Bat?" by the philosopher Thomas Nagel—he concludes that even a moment of such knowing would make us insane. "salt wind" is not allusive in such overt ways, but conjures its own possible impossibilities which are delectable to ponder. And "dawn" is fun and boppy, and sees the scene in an original way. "what we say," however, does what I find so hard to do: it actually suggests a new way to organize material within a haiku. Its multiple reading possibilities are the very essence of innovation, and I expect serious poets will study this poem, and we'll see more like it in the near future. But Olga Dugan got here first.

— Jim Kacian

The *Haiku* Foundation *HaikuNow!* International Haiku Contest 2010

Noteworthy Traditional Poems

midsummer solstice
the bonfire luring me back
to my maiden name

an'ya

New Year's resolution—
the paper crane wobbles
against the mirror

Terry Ann Carter

Indian summer
red and yellow onionskins
cross the kitchen floor

Cynthia Cechota

scarlet poppy field—
the black horse's nostrils sense
the storm coming in

Dan Doman

another birthday
I fasten a jade necklace
with berry-stained hands

Carolyn Hall

taking back my words—
the sizzle of summer rain
on a hard dirt road

Catherine J. S. Lee

skyscraper facades
in the rose-colored twilight . . .
what seemed possible

Scott Mason

Noteworthy Contemporary Poems

the caretaker
pushes Friday evening
with his broom

Damien Gabriels

end of the pier
tattooed wings
on the fat man's back

Paul Hodder

tomorrow's funeral . . .
the scrape of snowplows
through the night

Earl R. Keener

train station—
the flutter of wings
in a chandelier

Deborah P. Kolodji

chance meeting
the snake's tongue
tests the air

Carole MacRury

motel room
passing headlights change
the shape of darkness

Melissa Spurr

the innermost feelings
of hummingbirds
are made of snowflakes

Gerry Vaughan

a case of bird skulls
my ears torn by such
little scissors

Peter Yovu

R
E
S
U
R
E
C
T
I
O
N
D
A
Y

Two crows fight for a place on the cross

Noteworthy Innovative Poems

Stone
Once a star

Eduard Tava

a grass snake
escaping into
my thought of it

Anatoly Kudryavitsky

searching the thesaurus
deep winter

Jennifer Corpe

prey on the cave wall an arrow's unfinished flight

Darrell Lindsey

DEATH.

y
a
n s
b r f t
i d a
zzzzzen

Lisbeth Scott

Vasile Moldovan

The *Haiku* Foundation *HaikuNow!* International Haiku Contest 2010

Judges:

Billy Collins
Jim Kacian

Screeners:

Peggy Willis Lyles (Traditional)
Philip Rowland (Innovative)
John Stevenson (Contemporary)

Coordinator:

Alice Frampton