

The Haiku Foundation: 1939—A Special Montage

A tribute to five outstanding haiku poets, all women, born in 1939, selected and compiled by Allan Burns.

Liminality

Marian Olson
(18 May)

first day
a whole year ahead
to get it right

Topography

wild flowers
where native blood flowed
Acoma Pueblo

Transformation

violet dawn
cricket calls fade
with the stars

Caroline Gourlay
(10 August)

unopened letter—
a kestrel hovers
in the distance

again no word . . .
on the map only inches
to your island shore

sinking sun
taking the mountain
with it

Ruth Yarrow
(15 September)

a marmot's whistle
pierces the mountain
first star

flash on the rim—
side canyon prolonging
thunder

new leaf—
a tiny beetle chews a hole
to the sky

Peggy Willis Lyles
(17 September)

hazy moon
the nun begins her journey
with a backward glance

black-water pond
reflections lapping
cypress knees

a ghost crab
takes a turtle hatchling—
moon-drenched waves

Marlene Mountain
(11 December)

thrush song a few days before the thrush
above the mountain mountains of the moon
autumn catches up the colors of rust behind the shed