

This Week's Montage

—*Autumn Colors*

Comparative Haiku

selected by

Allan Burns

How pleasant to walk over beds of these fresh, crisp, and rustling fallen leaves—young hyson, green tea, clean, crisp, and wholesome! How beautifully they go to their graves! how gently lay themselves down and turn to mould!—painted of a thousand hues and fit to make the beds of us living. So they troop to their graves, light and frisky. They put on no weeds. Merrily they go scampering over the earth, selecting their graves, whispering all through the woods about it. They that waved so loftily, how contentedly they return to dust again and are laid low, resigned to lie and decay at the foot of the tree and afford nourishment to new generations of their kind, as well as to flutter on high! How they are mixed up, all species—oak and maple and chestnut and birch! they are about to add a leaf's breadth to the depth of the soil. We are all the richer for their decay.”—Henry David Thoreau, journal, 20 October 1853

Natsume Sôseki (1867-1916)

vincent tripi (b. 1941)

Carolyn Hall (b. 1941)

Crowd of pampas grasses
Waving—
Beginning of autumn.

Autumn's already started:
There remains a book
Not yet read through.

Shining in the wind
Of the new autumn:
A spider's thread.

Bay in autumn:
The sounds of a stake
Driven into the ground.

Under the leaves
Of a morning glory:
Cat's eyes.

Clear autumn sky
One pine tree
Soaring on the ridge.

A five-tiered waterfall:
A maple color
On each tier.

from *Zen Haiku: Poems and Letters of Natsume Sôseki*, translated and edited by Sôiku Shigematsu (Weatherhill, Inc., 1994)

Leaves covering
the rock on which it sang
solitary vireo

Autumn colors
breaking through the haze
the wood duck settles

Colouring itself across the pond the autumn wind

Not falling
caterpillar
on the falling leaf

Autumn woods . . .
sometimes it's just about
taking a pee

It's great to be alive!
how to say this
to the scarecrow?

Autumn moon—
everything I own
fits into the canoe

1-2 from . . . *the path of the bird* (Hummingbird Press, 1996)
3-4 from *between God & the pine* (Swamp Press, 1997)
5-7 from *paperweight for nothing* (tribe press, 2006)

valley oak
all the colors of fall
in a single leaf

a towhee calls
from the seldom-used gate
autumn dawn

leaf-strewn creek
two mallards slip
into the current

night descending
the depth of deer tracks
in the rain-soaked path

leaf boats
in and out of shadow
fall creek rising

too late
for the autumn colors
hometown visit

crochet hook
pulling the yarn through
deep November

1 from *The Heron's Nest* 3.2, 2000
2-3 from *Water Lines* (Snapshot Press, 2006)
4-7 from "In and Out of Shadow" (True Vine Press, 2008)

Previous Montages

September 6: California Dreamin'
September 13: Fall Migration

Next Week's Montage: New England Sketches

Peter Yovu
Bruce Ross
paul m.