

A HAIKU SAMPLER FROM THE UNITED STATES

Selected by JIM KACIAN



Ezra Pound

IN A STATION OF THE METRO

The apparition of these faces in the crowd :
Petals on a wet, black bough .¹

Amy Lowell

Last night it rained.
Now, in the desolate dawn,
Crying of blue jays.²

Sadakichi Hartmann

White petals afloat
On a winding woodland stream—
What else is life's dream!³

1. *Poetry* (1913).

2. *Poetry* (1921).

3. Sadakichi Hartmann, *Tanka and Haikai: Japanese Rhythms* (San Francisco, 1916).

E. E. Cummings

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ness⁴

Charles Reznikoff

About an excavation
a flock of bright red lanterns
has settled.⁵

Langston Hughes

Suicide's Note

The calm,
Cool face of the river
Asked me for a kiss.⁶

Carl Sandburg

WINDOW

Night from a railroad car window
Is a great, dark, soft thing
Broken across with slashes of light.⁷

4. *95 Poems* (Harcourt Brace, 1958).

5. *Jerusalem the Golden* (Objectivist Press, 1934).

6. *Vanity Fair* (25 September 1925).

7. Carl Sandburg, *Chicago Poems* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1916).

Wallace Stevens

I

Among twenty snowy mountains,
The only moving thing
Was the eye of the blackbird.⁸

William Carlos Williams

a red wheel
barrow

glazed with rain
water

beside the white
chickens.⁹

Paul Reps

walking through the forest
I rearrange
the trees¹⁰

Gary Snyder:

This morning:
floating face down in the water bucket
a drowned mouse¹¹

Jack Kerouac

Missing a kick
at the icebox door
It closed anyway¹²

8. *Others: An Anthology of the New Verse* (Knopf, 1917).

9. *Spring and All* (Contact Publishing Co., 1923).

10. *letters to a friend* (Stillgate Publishers, 1981).

11. *Earth House Hold* (New Directions, 1969).

12. *The Book of Haikus* (Penguin, 2003).

Allen Ginsberg

The madman
Emerges from the movies:
The street at lunchtime.¹³

Richard Wright:

In the falling snow
A laughing boy holds out his palms
Until they are white.¹⁴

James W. Hackett

Bitter morning:
sparrows sitting
without necks.¹⁵

O Mabson Southard

The old rooster crows . . .
Out of the mist come the rocks
And the twisted pine¹⁶

Nick Virgilio

lily:
out of the water . . .
out of itself¹⁷

Robert Spiess

a round melon
in a field of round melons
resting dragonfly¹⁸

13. *Journals Mid-Fifties 1954-1958* (HarperCollins, 1996).

14. *Haiku: This Other World* (Arcade, 1998).

15. *American Haiku* 1.1 (1963).

16. *American Haiku* 3.1 (1965).

17. *American Haiku* 2.1 (1964).

18. *The Cottage of Wild Plum* (Modern Haiku Press, 1991).

John Wills

rain in gusts
below the deadhead
troutswirl¹⁹

Virginia Brady Young

Vaster
than the prairie —
this wind.²⁰

William J. Higginson

Holding the water
held by it —
the dark mud.²¹

Gary Hotham

distant thunder
the dog's toenails click
against the linoleum²²

Michael McClintock

the dead
come apart:
downpour²³

Elizabeth Searle Lamb

pausing
halfway up the stairs —
white chrysanthemum²⁴

19. *up a distant ridge* (First Haiku Press, 1980).

20. *Circle of Thaw* (Barlenmir House, 1972).

21. *Haiku West* 3.2 (1970).

22. *Modern Haiku* 6.2 (1975).

23. *Modern Haiku* 4.3 (1973).

24. *In This Blaze of Sun* (First Haiku Press, 1975).

Alan Pizzarelli

a spark
falls to the ground
 darkens

that's it²⁵

Cor van den Heuvel

hot day
the mime leans into a wind
that isn't there²⁶

Martin Shea

terminal.
one far off
and perfect moon²⁷

Marlene Mountain

pig and i spring rain²⁸

Alexis Rotella

Late August —
I bring him the garden
in my skirt.²⁹

Raymond Roseliep

he removes his glove
to point out
 Orion³⁰

25. *Haiku Magazine* 6.1&2 (1974).

26. *Modern Haiku* 39.3 (2008).

27. *Seer Ox* 3 (1974).

28. *Frogpond* 2:3-4 (1979).

29. *Wind Chimes* 2 (1981).

30. *Sailing Bones* (Rook Press, 1978).

Robert Boldman

walking with the river
the water does my thinking³¹

Peggy Willis Lyles

before we knew its name the indigo bunting³²

Ruth Yarrow

after the garden party the garden³³

Garry Gay

Bird song:
the color
of song³⁴

Julius Lester

As we got
Closer, the
Rainbow disappeared.³⁵

Lenard D. Moore

late summer
black men spreading tar
on the side road³⁶

31. *Walking with the River* (High/Coo Press, 1980).

32. *Blithe Spirit* 2.2 (1982).

33. *Wind Chimes* 7 (1983).

34. *Frogpond* 11.2 (1988).

35. *Kaleidoscope: Poems by American Negro Poets* (Harcourt Brace, 1967).

36. *Frogpond* 26.2 (2003).

Sonia Sanchez

say no words
time is collapsing
in the woods³⁷

Gerald Vizenor

After the heavy rains
So many skies tonight
Reflecting the moon.³⁸

Cid Corman

On the brim of a
brimming stone bowl a
stone.³⁹

John Ashbery

A blue anchor grains of grit in a tall sky sewing⁴⁰

Patricia Donegan

spring wind —
I too
am dust⁴¹

John Martone

daughter waters father weeds their silence⁴²

37. *Morning Haiku* (Beacon Press, 2010).

38. *Raising the Moon Vines* (Callimachus Press, 1964).

39. *Nonce* (Elizabeth Press, 1965).

40. *Sulfur* 5 (1981).

41. *Mainichi Daily News* Haiku Contest 1998.

42. *Gaura* (tel-let, 2007).

Billy Collins

Innumerable
raindrops on the reservoir —
I stop to count some.⁴³

Wally Swist

walking farther into it
the farther it moves away
spring mist⁴⁴

Dee Evetts

damp morning
cash for a journey
warm from the machine⁴⁵

Lee Gurga

from house
to barn:
the milky way⁴⁶

Michael Dylan Welch

after the quake
the weathervane
pointing to earth⁴⁷

vincent tripi

The shell I take,
the shell it takes
— ebb tide⁴⁸

43. *She Was Just Seventeen* (Modern Haiku Press, 2006).

44. *Modern Haiku* 19.3 (1988).

45. *endgrain* (Red Moon Press, 1997).

46. *Frogpond* 17.2 (1994).

47. *Frogpond* 13.1 (1990).

48. *Woodnotes* 9 (1991).

Christopher Herold

foghorns . . .
we lower a kayak
into the sound⁴⁹

Marian Olson

river's song
a wounded turtle
slips into it⁵⁰

Peter Yovu

she slips into
the ocean the ocean
slips into⁵¹

Jim Kacian

the river
the river makes
of the moon⁵²

Mike Dillon

it doesn't matter
what I think:
Milky Way⁵³

John Stevenson

a deep gorge . . .
some of the silence
is me⁵⁴

49. Harold G. Henderson Haiku Contest (Haiku Society of America) 1999.

50. National League of American Pen Women Haiku Contest 2003.

51. *Frogpond* 32.3 (2009).

52. *Mainichi Daily News* Haiku Contest 1997.

53. *Modern Haiku* 41.1 (2010).

54. *GEPPPO* 19.4 (1996).

Stanford M. Forrester

cold Aegean sun —
the temple
half stone, half shadow⁵⁵

Paul Miller

a line borrowed
from another poet
spring rain⁵⁶

Fay Aoyagi

icy rain
at the bottom of the lake
a door to yesterday⁵⁷

Cherie Hunter Day

looking up
rules of punctuation —
the green hills⁵⁸

Chris Gordon

a lover letter to
the butterfly gods with
strategic misspellings⁵⁹

Scott Metz

somewhere
fireflies are
eating rhinos⁶⁰

55. *Paper Wasp* 11.2 (2005).

56. *The Heron's Nest* 12.2 (2010).

57. Daily Haiku, Cornell University Mann Library March 7, 2008.

58. *The Heron's Nest* 8.1 (2006).

59. *Cucumbers Are Related to Lemons* (self-published 2009)

60. *NOON* 5 (2007).

Roberta Beary

all day long
I feel its weight
the unworn necklace⁶¹

Carolyn Hall

windfall apples
what I think about
what I think⁶²

William Ramsey

slave cemetery
i scrape the moss to find
no name⁶³

Jack Barry

snow light
not telling you
the whole dream⁶⁴

Chad Lee Robinson

full moon —
all our sounds
are vowels⁶⁵

Allan Burns

distant virga
the ranch dog's eyes
different colors⁶⁶

61. *pocket change* (Red Moon Press, 2000).

62. *Roadrunner* 9.1 (2009).

63. *South by Southeast* 3.1 (1996).

64. *All Nite Rain* (Down to Earth Books, 2008).

65. *The Heron's Nest* 8.4 (2006).

66. *The Heron's Nest* 8.3 (2006).