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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Charles Reznikoff

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

Langston Hughes

Suicide's Note

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

Carl Sandburg

WINDOW

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

4. 95 Poems (Harcourt Brace, 1958).
6. Vanity Fair (25 September 1925).
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

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

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

Richard Wright:

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

James W. Hackett

Bitter morning:
sparrows sitting
without necks.

O Mabson Southard

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

Nick Virgilio

lily:
out of the water . . .
out of itself

Robert Spiess

a round melon
in a field of round melons
resting dragonfly

John Wills

rain in gusts
below the deadhead
tROUTswirl

Virginia Brady Young

Vaster
than the prairie —
this wind.

William J. Higginson

Holding the water
held by it —
the dark mud.

Gary Hotham

distant thunder
the dog’s toenails click
against the linoleum

Michael McClintock

the dead
come apart:
downpour

Elizabeth Searle Lamb

pausing
halfway up the stairs —
white chrysanthemum

19. *up a distant ridge* (First Haiku Press, 1980).
24. *In This Blaze of Sun* (First Haiku Press, 1975).
Alan Pizzarelli

a spark
falls to the ground
darkens

that's it^{25}

Cor van den Heuvel

hot day
the mime leans into a wind
that isn't there^{26}

Martin Shea

terminal.
one far off
and perfect moon^{27}

Marlene Mountain

pig and i spring rain^{28}

Alexis Rotella

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

Raymond Roseliep

he removes his glove
to point out
Orion^{30}

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Robert Boldman

walking with the river
the water does my thinking

Peggy Willis Lyles

before we knew its name the indigo bunting

Ruth Yarrow

after the garden party the garden

Garry Gay

Bird song:
the color
of song

Julius Lester

As we got
Closer, the
Rainbow disappeared.

Lenard D. Moore

late summer
black men spreading tar
on the side road

Sonia Sanchez

say no words
time is collapsing
in the woods\(^{37}\)

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 sewing\(^{40}\)

Patricia Donegan

spring wind —
I too
am dust\(^{41}\)

John Martone

daughter waters father weeds their silence\(^{42}\)

\(^{37}\) *Morning Haiku* (Beacon Press, 2010).
\(^{38}\) *Raising the Moon Vines* (Callimachus Press, 1964).
\(^{39}\) *Nonce* (Elizabeth Press, 1965).
\(^{40}\) *Sulfur* 5 (1981).
\(^{42}\) *Gaura* (tel-let, 2007).
Billy Collins

Innumerable
raindrops on the reservoir —
I stop to count some.33

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).
45. endgrain (Red Moon Press, 1997).
Christopher Herold

foghorns . . .
we lower a kayak
into the sound\(^49\)

Marian Olson

river’s song
a wounded turtle
slips into it\(^50\)

Peter Yovu

she slips into
the ocean the ocean
slips into\(^51\)

Jim Kacian

the river
the river makes
of the moon\(^52\)

Mike Dillon

it doesn’t matter
what I think:
Milky Way\(^53\)

John Stevenson

a deep gorge . . .
some of the silence
is me\(^54\)

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51. *Frogpond* 32.3 (2009).
Stanford M. Forrester

cold Aegean sun —
the temple
half stone, half shadow

Paul Miller

a line borrowed
from another poet
spring rain

Fay Aoyagi

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

Cherie Hunter Day

looking up
rules of punctuation —
the green hills

Chris Gordon

a lover letter to
the butterfly gods with
strategic misspellings

Scott Metz

somewhere
fireflies are
eating rhinos

---

59. *Cucumbers Are Related to Lemons* (self-published 2009)
Roberta Beary
all day long
I feel its weight
the unworn necklace

Carolyn Hall
windfall apples
what I think about
what I think

William Ramsey
slave cemetery
i scrape the moss to find
no name

Jack Barry
snow light
not telling you
the whole dream

Chad Lee Robinson
full moon —
all our sounds
are vowels

Allan Burns
distant virga
the ranch dog’s eyes
different colors

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