



P#R *Issue 2*

Pan Haiku Review Issue 2
Winter 2023

The Kigo Lab Special
ed. Alan Summers



**The Pan Haiku Review Issue 2
(New Year's Eve/Winter 2023)**
Kigo Lab Special ed. Alan Summers

The Premise

Premise: *something used as a basis for developing an idea*

Medieval Latin praemissa (propositio): (proposition) "set in front"

PHR2 is all about **3-line haiku**, and with a **seasonal twang aka reference**, and about **attempting to emulate the Japanese 'kigo' poetic renditions of the seasons and their component parts**. The challenge was to incorporate classic era/traditional approaches, or modern, contemporary, experimental, or even *speculative* examples of haiku or hokku.

What is Speculative writing?

To freely explore possibility and impossibility alike within the seasons, and the poetic character of those explorations, currently fictional or forthcoming 'new era' seasonal changes for both former 'traditional' or unknown seasonal features and developments coming our way.

The request was to send **ONE previously published** 3-line haiku with a seasonal reference, and **ONE unpublished** 3-line haiku with a seasonal reference.

The Features

photohaijin:

- *Splash of Season*: Leslie Bamford

The Season Marker Series:

- **Ankle Of The Dragon**: In Pursuit of Kigo by Alan Summers
- **Unsold Sofas and Asparagus Sprouts**: Chasing the Kigo by Alan Peat
- The *Modern Kigo Project* Contest Judges' Reports
- Jo Balistreri: *Startled into Flight*
- Joshua St. Claire: *Periplum and Potatoes*
 - *why juxtaposition*: the shirt hung up on an apple
(and *why wrong can be right in haiku*) by Alan Summers

The Poems (sent in for this special edition)

The Blōō Outpost Report

(incl. what's next for: PHR3)

Bill Waters (originator, *Poetry in Public Places Project*):

“And you are in the vanguard of the new-season-word revolution, Alan. You’re the first haiku poet I turn to to see which way the winds of change are blowing.”

Is climate change killing the haiku? by Sayumi Take (NikkeiAsia, March 2023)

Etsuya Hirose, a professional haiku poet was quoted:
“. . .try finding a new form of expression or diversity within this reality of warmer days.” They were worried that “diversity in haiku will be lost” and we might not “really empathize with [certain] kigo, [and] that season and emotion.”

Sayumi Take stated:

“. . .climate change is seeping into our tradition and culture and irreversibly transforming it.”

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Editor-s-Picks/Tea-Leaves/Is-climate-change-killing-the-haiku>

<https://jref.com/threads/the-impact-of-climate-change-on-japanese-culture.515753/>

The first Modern Kigo Contest (judged by Réka Nyitrai & Alan Peat) Making a start!

<https://haikubasecamp.wordpress.com/2022/06/12/96/>
<https://weirdlaburnum.wordpress.com/2022/02/01/the-modern-kigo-competition-results>

See also:

The 2nd Modern Kigo Project Competition
with judge's comments: (Réka Nyitrai & Alan Peat)
<https://tinyurl.com/KigoContest2>

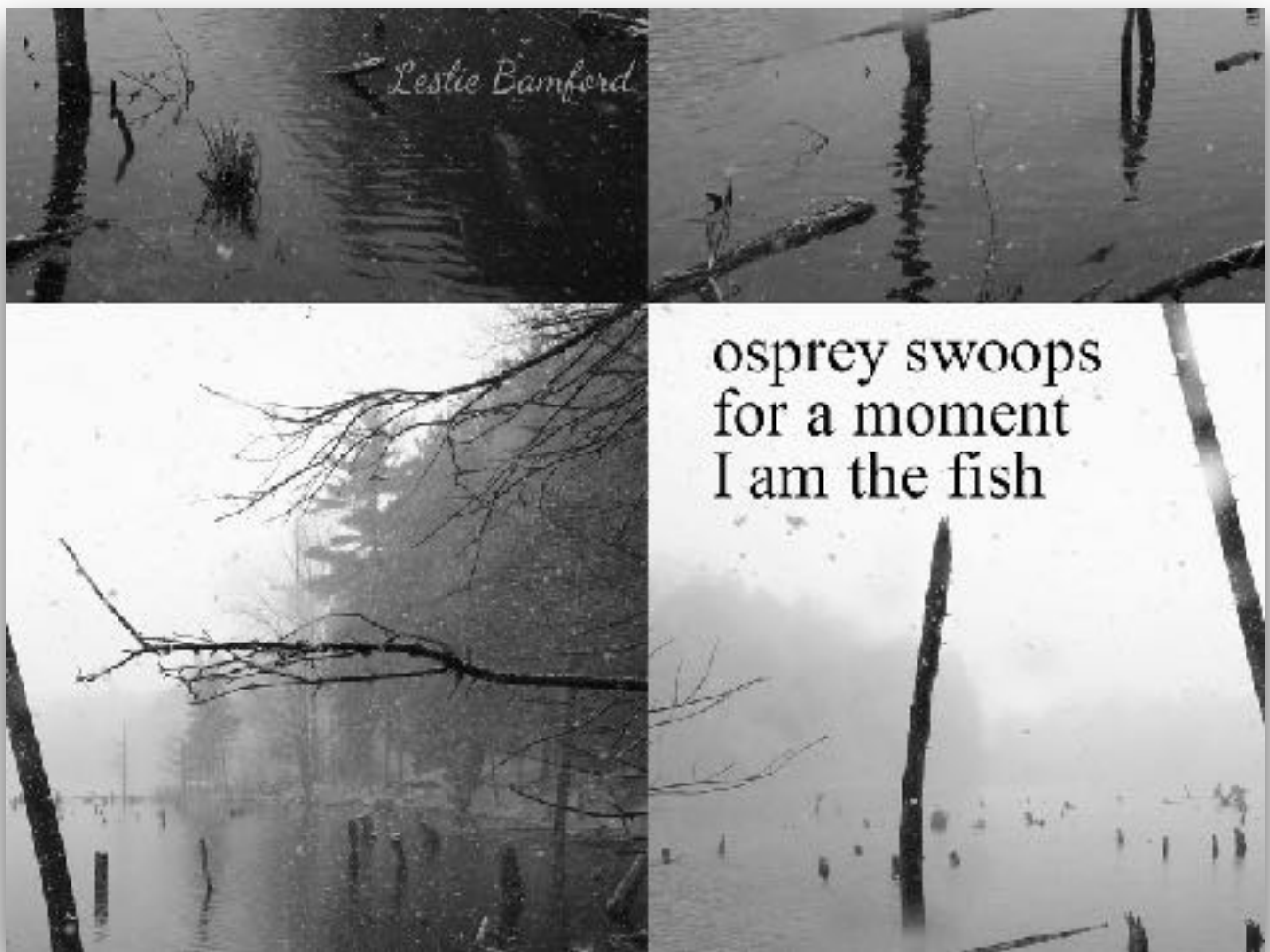
"Let's embrace both urban, engineered, and natural seasonal shifts within social habits, movements, and weather patterns. Haiku goes through many challenges with each major social upheaval around the world. A lot has changed since Masaoka Shiki (1867–1902) started coining the word 'haiku' back in the 1890s. "

Alan Summers, October 2023

photohaijin :

A Splash of Season

Leslie Bamford



Leslie Bamford

osprey swoops
for a moment
I am the fish

osprey swoops

<https://ourbesthaiga.blogspot.com/2020/02/leslie-bamford.html>

re ospreys UK

Ospreys are awe-inspiring birds. Look out for them from mid-March through to the end of the summer as they wrestle a large fish from a lake or ward off intruders from their nest, before they make the remarkable 3,000 mile migration to sub-Saharan Africa. UK

North America

Most Ospreys that breed in North America migrate to Central and South America for the winter, with migration routes following broad swaths of the eastern, interior, and western U.S. A few Ospreys overwinter in the southernmost United States, including parts of Florida and California.



LESLIE BAMFORD

2/18/2020

ourbesthaiga

BLACK & WHITE HAIGA/HAISHA

https://ourbesthaiga.blogspot.com/2020/02/leslie-bamford_18.html



Leslie Bamford
Twitter
@LeslieBamford1 ·
Nov 15 2023

windblown: the haiku

by Leslie Bamford

January thaw
the river sheds
her snow pants

burying Grammy's mink
collar in the woods
wild at last

first snowfall
of November
the black dog returns

seventy years old
still worried about
dying young

Leslie Bamford
Four haikai verses from *Failed haiku* vol. 2, Issue 13 ed. Michael Rehling

late spring blizzard
somewhere
cherry blossoms

Leslie Bamford
Honourable Mention
2017 Vancouver Haiku Invitational Winners
Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival
The *Haiku Invitational* contest attracting submissions from all over the world.

windblown
a forest of pine cones
in morning's light

Leslie Bamford
hedgerow, 2019 ed. Caroline Skanne

spruce bursting
with birdsong
autumn chorus

Leslie Bamford
Previously unpublished

“This happened the other morning as I got out of my car parked on the driveway. The big spruce on our front lawn was literally full of song— some small birds within, none of which I could see... it was a splendid moment.”

—Leslie Bamford



—Leslie Bamford

In China and many other east Asian cultures, the "jade rabbit" or "moon rabbit" is often related to the Mid-autumn Festival, which is in the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar, when the moon is the roundest of the year. This is one of the most important Chinese traditional festivals.

In Chinese folklore, the moon rabbit lives on the moon and mix its elixir of life under a cassia tree. In the Mayan culture, the moon goddess is always depicted with a rabbit in her hand. In Egyptian mythology, rabbits are closely associated to the cycles of the moon. In the Greek mythology, rabbits have an important role that resembles fruitfulness and is related to moon goddesses.

What do rabbits have to do with the moon?
Li Yunqi (September 2019)



DAR issue 2

Editor: Alan Summers

Ankle of the Dragon

(In Pursuit of Kigo) by Alan Summers

Link, Shift, Kire and Kigo

thunder
I slide a kigo
into the gun

Alan Summers

Haiku evolved out of the starting verse, which is called a 'hokku', that began a joint enterprise of a poem written by several poets. Renga was the joint poem and then Matsuo Bashō, who elevated hokku to a fine art, both within renga, and as a new standalone poem in its own right, also adapted renga into renku. As hokku could now be a poem in its own right Masaoka Shiki (1890s) began to shape first of all hokku into a new approach, using both old Japanese, and also current Western art techniques, and called it a 'haiku' using en plein air painting methods for writing, and developed his *Three Ways of Sketching from Life*.

When Shiki took the invention of haiku further

1. Writing down immediately something direct from an observation/experience that we just experienced straight from an incident, akin to reportage.
2. Sampling our reality into a poem that is facton (fact and fiction).
3. A meld of abstract and concrete, and what occurs inside us when we experience something that affects us outwardly and inwardly.

"When Shiki took the invention of haiku further"
by Alan Summers (November 2019)

In time, haiku became its own creature, at least outside of Japan. As more and more social upheavals, and world wars, and industrial and technological advances came and went, haiku kept pace.

Back to the mention of renga and renku where hokku originated, and haiku takes aspects from renga & renku, as well as the starting stanza called hokku:

Renga means "linked verse"... that originated in Japan possibly in one form or another over thirteen centuries ago. It was a single poem developed and created by more than one poet, and eventually by several poets who took "turns" writing their own stanza in response to one before, written by a different poet. The poem could be said to be "a collaboration of poets" with an ever *re-evolving* poem while avoiding any single narrative, basically leaping away from a storyline created by two stanzas. This involved a possible unique method of 'link and shift'.

These large group-led poems typically started with a hokku (a 3-line verse) that set the tone and subject of the whole creation: These hokku were the origin of the haiku. The hokku was expected to set the scene, telling readers where and when they had just landed. This was the initial landscape, and the season where we start an adventure. The hokku was expected to stand on its own two feet and also kickstart a journey through the seasons and various terrain. It should be good enough to read in isolation, without the following stanzas.

In a traditional renga, the poem progresses from a more seasonal and naturalistic theme towards a more abstract and philosophical one. The collaborative aspect of renga poetry also requires each poet to be mindful of the preceding stanzas and to add to the evolving narrative of the poem.

Composing a renku (or earlier renga) was like putting together the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle of an ever-changing universe: No two pieces are the same; one must keep going ahead to find new ones. There are two primary means to finding and matching the pieces of the cosmic puzzle while writing a renku, "link" ([*tsukeai*](#)) and "shift" ([*tenji*](#)).

"**Link**" refers to the connections or relations between adjacent stanzas; "**shift**" has to do with the diversity of topics and materials and the progression of the renku.

The seasons (nature, agrarian, human festivals) played a vital part in renga and renku, and standalone hokku, because Japan was predominantly an Agrarian (pre-industrial) society only starting a Merchant class at the time of Matsuo Bashō, who was of the Samurai class himself, though low down in the pecking orders.

JAPANESE SAMURAI / Matsuo Bashō

<https://japanupmagazine.com/archives/10491>

The Agrarian Origins of Modern Japan

https://eh.net/book_reviews/the-agrarian-origins-of-modern-japan/

As a country in isolation and relying heavily on its own agriculture it was imperative to be aware of the seasons and their component parts so that crops could feed the country.

Why was Japan isolated in the 1600s?

It is conventionally regarded that the shogunate imposed and enforced the sakoku policy in order to remove the colonial and religious influence of primarily Spain and Portugal, which were perceived as posing a threat to the stability of the shogunate and to peace in the archipelago. **Sakoku** (Japanese: “closed country”) - Wikipedia

This seasonal awareness carried over, perhaps to a more colloquial manner, as many people moved to the new towns and cities for better pay and/or conditions. Some became writers whether sometime hobbyists, amateurs, or professionals, still carrying the torch of seasonal aspects into many of their writing, and specifically that of, first of all, hokku, and then haiku (as well as renga and renku). The renga/renku appeal reduced in Japan, perhaps as more and more European styles of poetry became widespread and encouraged single poets to write their own single poem.

Although possibly ***less and less we can be aware of nature's seasons, and farming seasons***, buried in towns and cities, ***yet we still have seasonal activities***, both in *the sense of nature*, and also as social celebrations, whether religious or secular, and sometimes with a crossover between the two. The seasons will and still quietly slip in, or slip through, both in expected traditional ways, and in the manner of progress, social movements, and social mass communication platforms, and more covert methods of getting ‘the word out’.

Social upheaval and other revolutions often incorporate the calendar month:

There was the French Republican calendar (calendrier républicain français), also commonly called the French Revolutionary calendar (calendrier révolutionnaire français), created and implemented during the French Revolution, and used by the French government for about 12 years from late 1793 to 1805, and for 18 days by the Paris Commune in 1871, and meant to replace the Gregorian calendar. The Egyptian revolution of 2011 is called the **January 25 Revolution**. Révolution de février), was a period of civil unrest in France (**February** 1848). There was a **March** Revolution in Ecuador in 1845. The **April** Revolution overthrew the dictatorship of Syngman Rhee in South Korea in 1960. In 1810 Buenos Aires, the **May** Revolution overthrew Spanish authority in the Viceroyalty of the Rio de la Plata, modern Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia. The **June** Revolution in 1924 Albania was also basically a coup. The **July** Revolution, more often called the Revolution of 1830, marked the transition from the restored Bourbon monarchy under Charles X to Louis-Philippe of Orleans (a distant cousin), who used the title "King of the French" (like Napoleon's title "Emperor of the French") rather than "King of France". **August** Revolution against French rule in Vietnam by the Viet Minh under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh. The **September** Revolution in Spain overthrew Isabella II in 1868. The **October** Revolution was the Bolshevik Revolution. Because Russia was still on the Julian calendar at the time, the revolution happened in November by the Gregorian calendar, so it is also called the **November** Revolution outside Russia. The **December** Revolution in Tunisia in 2010, removed the ruling dictator.

13 Heartbreaking Facts About Ongoing Conflicts Around the World

From Palestine to Ukraine to Yemen, conflict is taking a devastating toll.

There Are at Least 32 Live Conflicts Right Now

<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/facts-about-world-conflicts/>

[#:~:text=Of%20those%20worsening%20are%20the,competition%20involving%20ethnic%20militias%20in](https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/facts-about-world-conflicts/#:~:text=Of%20those%20worsening%20are%20the,competition%20involving%20ethnic%20militias%20in)

Of course there is ongoing internal strife that might not quite amount to the term conflict or war, but larger numbers of a country's community can be disenfranchised by other large numbers of a community within the same country, city, town etc... Social media has its own conflicts and virtual war zones.

While **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** is observed at the beginning of each new year, on the third Monday of January, in the tumultuous **2020**, it was another season that changed so much. It became **The Summer of Activism** both online (and offline) with Jacob Blake Sr, the father of Jacob Blake (who was shot by police in Kenosha, Wisconsin USA), and the "*Get Your Knee Off Our Necks*" Commitment March on Washington on the spot where Rev. Martin Luther King Jr delivered his "*I Have a Dream*" speech August 28, 1963.

Social media used different forms of protest, with performers like Tobe Nwigwe using TikTok to share his song, “I Need You To,” which became an anthem in calling for police officers involved in Breonna Taylor’s death (SPRING: 13th March 2020, Louisville, Kentucky, United States) to be arrested:



On TikTok, Black users demanded that platforms address their own internal biases and elevate the content of creators of color at the same rate as their white counterparts. In June, the app apologized to its Black users, acknowledged the inconsistency in what content was being elevated and promised to do better.

K-pop stans, or ardent fans of Korean pop music, joined forces with TikTok users to attempt to look like big numbers of people were attending a president’s rally in Tulsa, but with no intention of actually attending on the day.

The mass murder of African American citizens May/June 1921 in Greenwood, Tulsa should be considered as a Seasonal Marker whether as The Tulsa Race Massacre or the Black Wall Street massacre. It was a two-day-long white supremacist terrorist massacre that took place between **May 31st and June 1st** and considered one of the worst incidents of racial violence in American history.

The famous Summer of 2020 boasted “the strawberry dress” created by Kosovo-born, New York-based designer Likira Matoshi, the Strawberry Midi Dress (known online as simply “the strawberry dress”) looked something a fairy would wear in **a midsummer’s hallucination**.

A Fashion Psychologist Explains Why THAT Strawberry Dress Was All Over Your Social Media
(Cosmopolitan magazine 2020)

According to Lyst, the global fashion platform, searches for the strawberry dress spiked by 103 percent since the beginning of August 2020.

—The Strawberry Dress That Ate TikTok - The New York Times (August 18th 2020)

Note: Lyst is a fashion technology company, and premium shopping app for over 160 million annual shoppers

Despite not being able to afford the dress “...people fell in love with the “Strawberry Dress,” a nearly \$500 Lirika Matoshi design that in any other Summer would have been seen by those wearing it running into one another, but instead helped people feel a little more fashionable amid the sweatpants fatigue of **[covid=19]** quarantine.

NBC News (September 2020)

The Song of Summer 2020:

Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion’s “WAP,” a female empowerment anthem with *not-safe-for-work* lyrics was both fitting of a Summer marked by moving the needle forward for equality, while also giving the world a moment to dance away its troubles.

Note: (WAP)

After its initial release, many people hailed the song for its “sex positive” message. “WAP” remained on the US Billboard Hot 100 for multiple weeks—it was the first female rap collaboration to do so—and it was certified 7x Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America.

Kelow-Bennett [**Lydia Kelow-Bennett, assistant professor in the department of Afroamerican and African Studies at the University of Michigan**] said the joy of “WAP” is emblematic of both the ability of Black Americans to hold both joy and sorrow in the same moment, a type of contradiction that was highlighted this summer. *“Living with this long amazing history of having come so far and looking to the future and realizing we still have at least as far to go to see freedom, those contradictions are what mark Black experience. They are what makes us special. It’s what makes us, I believe as a professor of these things, us beautiful,”* she said. With the reflection of the summer on the cracks in the social systems of America, the fever pitch of protest and an onslaught of social movements, Kelow-Bennett said while some may call the summer of 2020 a turning point for the country, she sees it as a breaking point.—NBC News (September 2020)

I look forward to any retrospective haiku and other haikai genres that can look back to personal experiences even as far as 2020, or as we enter 2024.

What will the New Year (and Spring) of 2024 bring, and what could happen in the Summer of 2024?

Seasonal Markers can often be pleasant or unpleasant reminders to commemorate but are vital to do so: Such as MLK (January) and “*I Have a Dream*” (August) as well as various Summer of Activism events, and ever more historic yet horrifyingly relevant attacks such as Tulsa Race Massacre. This might assume that this narrows things down the seasonal marker (**new attempts at social kigo**) as two days in Summer, still vibrate in parts of the world. Another example is *The 17 October 1961 massacre* in France, a mass killing of Algerians living in Paris (France’s capital city), by the French National Police occurred on 17 October 1961 where the River Seine was believed to have actually run red.

Britain has had many atrocities linked to it, and alarmingly I personally wondered if the Peterloo Massacre was going to be reenacted during part of the covid year of 2020. There was mention of using the British Army *other than “assisting” the British public*, thankfully they continued only with assisting with matters that helped the public and not any government of the day that wanted to consider extending its power further.

The Peterloo Massacre took place at St Peter's Field, Manchester, Lancashire, England, on Monday 16th August 1819. Eighteen people were killed, and 400–700 injured, when cavalry charged into a crowd of around 60,000 people, who had gathered to demand the reform of parliamentary representation.

Hardly pleasant, pretty, or ‘nice’ attempts at kigo, but remember, haiku was almost born, **or re-born** out of protests by the New Rising Haiku movement in Japan, against their country entering WWII.

Forgive, But Do Not Forget

“In the forties of the last century haiku poets were persecuted, arrested, tortured and their journals annihilated by the ultranationalist Tennô regime; some poets died in prison or were sent to the frontlines of the war.”

<https://www.haiku-heute.de/archiv/iwenzel-ito-yuki-forgive-but-do-not-forget/>

“I don’t write haiku to report the weather.”

Nagasaki anniversary—
I push
the mute button

Fay Aoyagi
Chrysanthemum Love, by Fay Aoyagi
(San Francisco: Blue Willow Press, 2003)
reviewed by William J. Higginson
Modern Haiku journal (USA) Volume 35.2 Summer 2004

Succinctly put:

“The intention behind [an] almanac has always been to provide a set of keys to unlock various aspects of the seasons and help us all appreciate the moment we are in, rather than stumbling, blinkered, through the year. I hope that you will use these foragings, planet-spottings, songs, traditions, gardening tips and recipes to craft your own ways of celebrating, marking, or just appreciating the year ahead as it unfolds.”

Lia Leendertz
The Almanac: A Seasonal Guide
Five editions: 2018-2024

Let's appreciate before we lose:

demolition site
the blossoms hug
an old school

Alan Summers

Note: blossoms in haiku always mean cherry blossoms

And sadly total war, and divisiveness, in many societies:

nuclear winter
I only count
98 red balloons

Alan Summers

war moon
the flickering of humans
at birdsong

Alan Summers

Asahi Shimbun, the blood moon issue, October 2nd for the eclipse of 9/28 (Japan 2015)

What's in a haiku?

spent cartridge of a fox
wagner's ring cycle plays
through the night

Alan Summers

Prune Juice ed. Aaron Barry, Antoinette Cheung, P. H. Fischer (December 2023)

From the **Safe?** haibun

The first line of the haikai verse is very much influenced by a number of visual and scent experiences, as well as cultural etc... including foxes that visited my last 'childhood' home and its neighbouring roads. Our house was on the edge of the *Bristol Downs* (UK), and so for decades the foxes had the bonus of instant access to city environs (incl. trash) and a large tract of protected grass and woodlands.

I'm also influenced in a literary sense by Ted Hughes' *The Thought Fox*, with a famous line "Till, with a sudden sharp hot stink of fox." As well as the movie "*Apocalypse Now*" (1979) with its famous/infamous use of classical musician (1813–1883) **Richard Wagner's "The Ride of the Valkyries"** expending cartridges and other projectiles in the glorification of killing off others which is embedded in my childhood/young adulthood memories.

The other Wagner was, of course, The Wagner Group (PMC Wagner) a private military company (PMC) controlled until 2023 by Yevgeny Prigozhin, a former close ally of Russia's president Vladimir Putin. The Wagner Group has used infrastructure of the Russian Armed Forces. Evidence suggests that Wagner has been used as a proxy by the Russian government, allowing it to have plausible deniability for military operations abroad, and hiding the true casualties of Russia's foreign interventions. On 23 August 2023, a business jet crashed approximately 100 kilometres (60 mi) north of its departure point in Moscow. Among the ten victims were Yevgeny Prigozhin, and other key figures of the Wagner Group, which prompted speculation the jet was ordered destroyed due to Prigozhin leading the Wagner Group rebellion exactly two months prior. Very precise dating

How foxes play, and how humans play in nature:

When it comes to foxing with a shotgun, I will always go with around 50g of BBs and through a tight choke to ensure clean kills. Foxes are extremely tough creatures and I will generally use a semi-auto.

Choosing the best shot size for your quarry - Sporting Shooter (sporting-gun dot com)

Foxes do tend to have the last word though:

Foxes use faeces to mark their territory; that is why the faeces are always left in conspicuous places, eg: on top of a compost heap or on garden walls.

—Hastings local government/Borough Council (UK).

re spent cartridges:

Fox poo has a distinctive musky smell and is a similar shape to dog poo, but with a pointy end: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2022/09/what-does-fox-poo-look-like/>

Fox spotted taking a POO in someone's pint (11th May 2023)

A wild fox has been spotted at a pub pooing in someone's pint of lager. Victor Del Coso was enjoying a drink in his local pub garden with friends. Victor was filming the encounter, but the video took a hilarious turn when the cheeky fox squatted down over an errant pint of beer and pooped directly into it.

“The fox realised people – as well as me and my friends – started laughing and looked to us all.”

—Whitehall, Greater London, United Kingdom

<https://www.newsflare.com/video/569748/fox-spotted-taking-a-poo-in-someones-pint>

The fox's year

January	The mating season, when territories are well established and vocal activity at night starts to decline
February	The vixen seeks out a den (or earth), which she may be actively excavating.
March	The cubs are born, and the vixen stays underground while her mate hunts and brings in food.
April	The cubs start to appear outside the den.
May	The cubs are now eating some solid food brought in by both parents.
June	The cubs are weaned from their mother's milk and stay above ground most of the time.
July	The parents begin to provide less food to encourage the cubs to start fending for themselves.
August	The cubs begin to forage and become less dependent on their parents.
September	Cubs are now fully grown. Natural food is plentiful and they start to forage on their own.
October	Families begin to break up and young animals start to disperse.
November	Adults fight with young animals, causing further dispersion.
December	Foxes are highly territorial and nocturnal vocalisation reaches its peak.

Renfrewshire Council (one of the 32 council areas of Scotland)

Everything it seems, is governed by the seasons, directly or indirectly, and often not coincidentally.

We know there have been total war scenarios from pre-Roman Republic onwards, that can affect the seasons. And it's not the only onslaught that the natural seasons have to contend with, and work around:

- Consumerism and the cult of plastic and other high intensity pollution
- Excessive atomic and nuclear 'bomb' testing, some proposals enough to kill the planet, even nature in totality perhaps.
- Various socio-political effects
- A public manipulated into being divided roughly in half, against each other, to an alarmingly aggressively fatal degree
- The rise of billionaires and trillionaires who entice trickles of money and power to others, and carry no responsibility, conscience/empathy, common sense

And of course weaponising the climate, and seasons:

combat climate change

Not only is combat a verb, to reduce climate change, it's also an aggressive militarised strategy or "combat method"

Military analysts have therefore suggested that climate change acts as a "threat multiplier" to national-security concerns, something that takes existing problems and makes them worse, impinging on global stability...

Benjamin K. Sovacool, Chad Baum, Sean Low,
The next climate war?

Statecraft, security, and weaponization in the geopolitics of a low-carbon future,
Energy Strategy Reviews Volume 45, January 2023

More than one fold in the paper

Kire, kigo, and the vertical axis of meaning in haiku

by Alan Summers

(Published *Under the Bashō* vol. 1.1 Autumn 2013 and a revision of an article originally published in the now-defunct *Multiverses* 1.1, 2012. Further adapted, with images etc... April 11, 2014.)
Adapted, amended, and absorbed into 'Ankle of the Dragon' (December 2023)

Are kire and kigo the warp and weft of haiku?

Are they still the key ingredients in contemporary haiku?

At a time when haiku writers both inside and outside Japan are reconsidering kigo as a worthy and pertinent device for haiku in the 21st Century I wonder why it might be seen as cliché, or mistakenly relegated to an amusing, if not a perfunctory weather report. Am I missing out on something if I decide to include; exclude kigo; make attempts at kigo; or even make any seasonal reference in my haiku?

I propose that a haiku is often defined, in a variety of wording, as a short verse poem of around six seconds or less duration marked by the presence of a kigo and kire. There are a growing number of exceptions to the above description, mostly due, I believe, to influences from the West, during and post-Shiki.

My main thrust is that there are the possibilities of kigo as a tool or device as a choice, to be equally considered, as valid, as any other technique of haiku. As a growing school of thought appears to be developing the idea that kigo is obsolete, I'd like this once main defining aspect of haiku, and pre-haiku aka hokku, to be revisited.

Kigo: A tide of longing

“season is the soul of haiku”

William J. Higginson, *The Haiku Seasons* (p20)

"The Haiku Seasons presents the historical and modern Japanese usage of seasonal themes in poetry. It shows, as nothing else in the literature has done, the growing dialogue between poets in Japan and other countries..."

—Elizabeth Searle Lamb, editor emeritus, Frogpond, Haiku Society of America

Dono kisetsu ga suki desu ka.

どの季節が好きですか。

Which season do you like?

Kisetsu (season, seasonal aspect): The seasons.

The seasonal aspect of the vocabulary (kigo) and subject matter (kidai) of traditional tanka, renga, and haiku; a deep feeling for the passage of time, as known through the objects and events of the seasonal cycle.

Cloud kigo
a light rain patters across
your nightingale floors

Alan Summers

"In search of the ultimate season word to associate with clouds, Alan Summers observes how "rain writes its own story across floorboards that sing like a bird. I like the idea of the cloud kigo."

—David McMurray

Do we as people, even if we are not Japanese, have an inbuilt awareness of seasonal beauty and changes, even if we feel outside nature when living in urban environments?

Many, if not most of us, live inside our ever grey concrete walls both at home and at work: Even when we go out for pleasure activities in between home and work we are tempted to exist between work and home in yet more concrete enclaves.

Are many of us, too many of us, walled out and away from the existence of nature?

comfort television
I don't move the vase
for the orange asters

Karen Hoy

Vertical axis is another topic for another article, but I'd just like to touch on this often vital or vitalising by-product or device utilising hidden and layered shorthand for other meanings, layering a haiku with more than just a mere surface meaning, and imagistic pairing. Vertical axis shows we are part of the world, be it natural history or social/cultural history, with all its historic markers and literature.

Asters are reminiscent of the **October 1918 Aster Revolution** in Hungary led by socialist Count Mihály Károlyi, who founded the short-lived Hungarian Democratic Republic. An aspect of people wanting and needing freedom. Asters are also commonly Autumn/Fall flowering plants.

Season words, and the Japanese kigo system, are not only derived from observations of nature, they can allude to a country's historical, cultural and literary past. After all none of us live in isolation, no man is an island from our environment, be it literary, or social, or through some aspect of nature.

No Man Is an Island from "Meditation XVII," by the English poet John Donne.

Japanese kigo are a strong allusion device (there are others) and I worry that kigo is mistakenly seen as cliché and/or as a weather report thrown into the mix so that half the haiku is done already, when in actual fact they can contain cultural and emotional tones of extreme intensity within Japan; and surely at least a warmth of layered memories outside Japan?

Haiku of course has a long list of devices to consider for inclusion, despite its brevity, and all are worth considering. Shirane suggests several devices that can be used to increase depth in haiku. *"Shirane's dismissal of the seasonal reference is convenient for the thesis of his paper, but does not seem to consider what is most distinctive in the haiku tradition: the kigo or seasonal references that characterize them. It is puzzling that the most obvious possibility for allusion is dismissed out-of-hand"* Lee Gurga.

Toward an Aesthetic for English-Language Haiku by Lee Gurga, Global Haiku Festival, Decatur, IL, April, 2000
re Haruo Shirane's *Traces of Dreams* (Stanford University Press (1998))

I feel that non-Japanese haiku can achieve an aspect of kishetsu with seasonal words and phrases. It's an experiment worth considering, as any prolific writer of haiku does, after all, need to consider variety in their work, if they are thinking about bringing out a collection. Dialogue is always healthy, and what better dialogue than to attempt to not only write haiku with kigo, but go back to basics as to why kigo (plural and singular spelling) were so effective in Japan? Kigo was a technique independent of poetry, but proved so successful that it became a highly respected tool within haiku composition.

As poetry can often be strengthened with a sense of place, as well as time, then perhaps the kigo tradition of Japan should be looked at again for inclusion into haiku?

kicking
through the leaves
sound of its season

Alan Summers

Each traditional Japanese haiku often expresses *kisetsu* and the *kigo*, a word or a phrase that points to a particular season, which can engineer a series of personal associations in the mind of certain readers. With the age of the internet and information gleaned within seconds from a smartphone, tablet, iPad, or a laptop computer, no man need ever be an island, and we all share nature, be it a view of the sky, drifting clouds, experiencing rain, noticing the sun during the daylight, and the moon at night, as well as early evening, and occasionally as a day moon.

People will at least, on occasion, try to make sense of the world, and now even Smartphone apps have recognised this. Apps are now available that help make sense of the stars, and it was a wonder, and wanting to understand the stars, that surely made us develop spoken and written language. A poet has a wish to communicate, and now we can again point to the stars, but not just with our index fingers, if we choose, or with our modern quill pens, but with these smartphone apps.

(BBC News - Smartphone apps that make sense of the stars,
and New York Times: Watching Out for Falling Stars, With a Smartphone in Hand).

One of my many aims for a new project is to show that the practice of consideration of incorporating *kigo* into haiku can still be relevant in the 21st Century. ***The Kigo Lab Project* does not seek to attempt to instil a kigo culture** within international English-language haiku writing group of poets: it simply wishes to engage in the possibilities that an attempt at *kigo* may prove to be yet a potent device in an author's armoury. One of its many purposes is that an author can consider including Japanese *kigo* or non-Japanese seasonal markers, in their variety of styles, whether for journals, a collection-in-progress, or for competitions run by various organisations that prefer a seasonal aspect in haiku.

Its aims lie in experimenting with certain well-known words and phrases in the English-language lexicon (both formal, slang/colloquial) which can potentially be utilised, even eventually, however long-term, as a direct parallel to *kigo*. This is very much a long-term project, but if never started, then how indeed can it ever succeed? And if it fails, then a collection of potent words and phrases using and storing the power of the seasons and our world's life cycle are accessible for inclusion into at least some haiku compositions.

In fact David Cobb had already started with ***English Seasonal Images: An Almanac of Haiku Season Words Pertinent to England*** reviewed by Charles Trumbull (*Modern Haiku* journal vol. 36.1 Spring 2005):

Cobb's project also performs an important service by showing how season words can link contemporary haiku to English literary and cultural traditions. In some cases, it even seems that he is helping conserve endangered aspects of English lore. Two examples of Cobb's explanations illustrate these points:

mist and fog [autumn; the season] Thanks to Keats's *Ode to Autumn* (season of mists ...) many will associate mist and fog with autumn, but it isn't conclusively so unless something else in the context assists.... (63)

<https://www.modernhaiku.org/bookreviews/Cobb2004.html>

threading into mist
the songs of soldiers
and their poppies

Alan Summers
Presence journal issue #65 (November 2019)

Seasonal Note: Autumn (November)

Does Britain have a Memorial Day?

Remembrance Day (also known as Poppy Day owing to the tradition of wearing a remembrance poppy) is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth member states since the end of the First World War to honour armed forces members who have died in the line of duty. The Armistice, an agreement to end the fighting of the First World War as a prelude to peace negotiations, began at 11am on 11 November 1918. Armistice is Latin for to stand (still) arms. To this day we mark Armistice Day around the United Kingdom with a Two Minute Silence at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month.

bowls, bowling green [summer; human life] Surely the epitome of leisure and taking one's time and ease, as exemplified by the favourite English myth that Sir Francis Drake would not cut short his game of bowls to tackle the Armada. (50)

<https://www.modernhaiku.org/bookreviews/Cobb2004.html>

Note: The Spanish Armada and the game of bowls

Myth and legend – Sir Francis Drake and the Spanish Armada

It was on the afternoon of Friday, 29th July, 1588, that a Captain Fleming sailed into Plymouth with the news that he had sighted a large group of Spanish ships near the Scilly Isles. This must have been long-awaited news, for the Spanish attack had been expected for some time, but the message should really have been delivered directly to Lord Howard of Effingham, the British fleet's Lord High Admiral. Drake was only Vice-Admiral, but he was a local sailor. With the tide flooding into Plymouth Sound and a stiff south-west breeze blowing, no British ship could have left harbour until the tide ebbed. Knowing this, Drake must also have known that there was plenty of time to finish his game. So on balance it seems likely that the old story about the game of bowls is well founded on fact.

<https://www.lookandlearn.com/blog/14744/myth-and-legend-sir-francis-drake-and-the-spanish-armada/>

There's no haiku about the Spanish Armada, but check out:

A Slice of David Cobb by Shrikaanth Krishnamurthy (2010):

<http://britishhaikusociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/A-Slice-of-David-Cobb-by-Shrikaanth-Krishnamurthy.pdf>

stuffing the Guy –
drafts of poems
long ago in print

David Cobb

Guy Fawkes Day (November 5th celebration with bonfires UK)

Saturn loses a ring
crisp Bonfire Night jackets
and toffee apple treats

Saturn gubi prsten
za Bonfire Night pole krumpira
i ušećerene jabuke

Alan Summers

transl. Tomislav Maretić

November 5th: Guy Fawkes Day also known as Bonfire Night.

Bonfire Night jackets: potatoes baked with the skin.

Peti studeni: Dan Guyja Fawkessa, poznat i kao Bonfire Night u UK.

Bonfire Nigjht jackets: krumpiri pečeni s korom.

Continuing into Winter:

early dark
the cathedral visible
only as windows

Karen Hoy

Very much a Winter image even if Autumn nights draw close too.

Early dark suggests the winter months, where in some world regions, we may be aware of shortening days, but often it's winter where the jolt from day to night is most noticed. The allusion to stained glass windows is inferred, and there is a long history of stained glass windows being the poor man's bible: Walter P. Snyder, [Ask the Pastor: Poor Man's Bible](#) (1999)

Another "poor man's Bible" is the cathedral, especially one of older days in Europe. Most of the "poor" were illiterate. So were quite a number of the rich, but they could hire people to read for them. The poor learned their Scripture in large part from the stained glass, statuary, and other art in the cathedrals. Similarly, the windows themselves were sometimes called "poor man's Bibles" for the same reason.

Among the most innovative English designers [of stained glass art] were the Pre-Raphaelites: William Morris (1834–1898); and Edward Burne-Jones (1833–1898), whose work heralded Art Nouveau.

More reactions and comments in this feature:

<https://thehaikufoundation.org/revivals-139/>

with their dead
watching . . .
almonds wither

Sara Tropper
previously unpublished

Almond Winter Care – What To Do With Almonds In Winter

With the rising popularity of homesteading, home landscapes now incorporate trees and shrubs that can pull double duty. Functionality has become just as important as beauty in our garden spaces.

With blooms as early as **January** in mild climates, almond trees are making their way into the landscape more often as reliable double duty plants, providing homeowners with **early Spring** blooms, healthy nuts, and an attractive landscape plant. Read on for tips on what to do with almonds in the **Winter**.

DARCY LARUM

LAST UPDATED OCTOBER 05, 2022

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/nut-trees/almonds/almond-tree-winter-care.htm>

Easter Sunday
baby bumps
among the beer bellies

Karen Hoy

Easter itself has a slew of cultural and religious connections too complex for the point of this particular essay except to say briefly that Easter Sunday is seen as a resurrection day i.e. a resurrection Sunday, notably that of Jesus Christ. Fertility, and the using of wine or beer, are closely associated with pre-Christian religions, and some later religions, and there is the wetting the baby's head saying, taking its name from the Christian baptismal rite, and to do with new arrivals, as Jesus was once, with the visit of the Three Wise Men.

unspooling
a fishing fly loosed
at riverine shadows

David Briggs

This possibly alludes to the Spring fly fishing season, rather than Autumn.

early spring...
the mosquito
with a broken beat

Malintha Perera

the cat's teeth
dribble oriole blood
spring equinox

Mary Weiler

Nature is its own creation and not manmade into cosy anecdotes
and gift-shop books. Spring is both life and death.

Yellow-rattle meadow -
a two-spot ladybird turns
my hand around

Alan Summers

My connection with nature is strong, and never stronger than when I do my field trips, either with guides, or on my own. Yellow-rattle meadows literally reek of Summer although they start in March and not cut down until late July.

Yellow Rattle or *Rhinanthus minor* is a fascinating plant often used to reduce grass in meadows to help other plants, and a valuable and attractive wildflower in its own right and typical of traditional English hay meadows.

crowded carriage
the breeze around
a lone ragwort

Karen Hoy

Note:

Common ragwort flowers between June and August.

Common ragwort is a native species of the UK. It is a member of the Compositae family, along with plants such as the dandelion (*Taraxacum officinalis* agg.) and daisy (*Bellis perennis*).

Common Ragwort - Magnificent Meadows

www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/assets/pdfs/Ragwort.pdf

dandelion fluff...
another search
for a self

Malintha Perera

Note:

Dandelion flowers from May to October but most profusely in May and June.

A haiku that reeks of Summer through its combined use of the words lime, ice cube, and jazz. Jazz alone, feels synonymous with Summer:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz_on_a_Summer%27s_Day



Trevor Haddrell

lime quarter
an ice cube collapses
over jazz
Alan Summers

linocut by Trevor Haddrell
haiku by Alan Summers

the in-between season
I follow the Mogami River
by riceboat

Alan Summers

Maki Nishida, a former colleague based in Japan, informed me about the Samurai legends of Suma Temple during my stay in 2002 at Osaka and Kobe, before following in the footsteps of Bashō with other haiku poets. She included the tale that if you heard the tsukutsukubōshi cicadas in September there would be an in-between season. As I was in the grounds of Sumadera in September, and heard them, that legend became a personal fact for me.

pregnant daughter
a muscle of minnows
changing the current

Mary Weiler
Minnows suggest the Autumn months rather than Summer.

a skein of ashes,
mother and son
turning home

David Briggs

The combination of a mother and son returning home after the funeral, and skein suggesting geese. What does it mean when geese come back? It can be a comforting companion of sight and sound after losing a loved one.

Geese:

The UK hosts seven species of geese that breed in far northern countries and arrive here in the autumn to spend the winter in relative warmth. Five species belong to the so-called 'grey geese' of the Anser genus; these are large, predominantly grey birds. The other two are the Barnacle and Brent goose.

Toshugu shrine pines
I try to stay as still-
mist and dew

Alan Summers

Dew is an autumn kigo. Although it's Toshugu that is mentioned, I'm reminded of when Issa visited Mt. Haruna, and of his haikai verse that mentioned dew in regards to this brief transient life, and the loss of his son

These haiku, *above and below*, are just a few of the possibilities of using kigo or some variation of seasonal reference in haiku to showcase rich cultural associations. Some of which may be lost to time, and some that can act as a current ongoing eco-stamp in our changing weather patterns, and be worthy of archive for that fact alone. Plus the bonus of being a joyous type of poetry at times, and at other times, a useful form of eco-critical writing.

Snow out of season
softer than the blackcap's song
drifting on the Downs

Dru Marland

Note: Visual Artist, writer, publisher and many more skills and attributes is an avid and skillful nature watcher. She is extremely sensitive to the seasons and even moreso now that, for many years, she moved out of a house and into a narrow boat navigating canals around the South West of England.

Blackcap birds including:

- song
- call
- alarm call
- subsong

<https://www.british-birdsongs.uk/blackcap/>

a flink of cows
the blue before a night
of falling snow

Alan Summers

The magic of the colours of the sky day and night from which we perceive and can guess a particular weather phenomenon. I still remember writing this at Avoncliff, Wiltshire (England).

Note: Twelve cows can collectively be named a flink!

the low slant
of winter light
cathedrals

Alan Summers
Semi-Finalist, Shambhala Times First Annual Midwinter Haiku Contest 2014
Judge: Patricia Donegan

Cathedrals can suggest many seasons though there is something extra during the Winter, whether it's due to the festival period or a different quality of light. And of course the winter sun is notoriously low for both pedestrians and motorists!

Both climate change and less snow around, is there less cause for celebration?

whispered echo . . .
a snowman on the run
becomes sunshine

Alan Summers

The "**act of Kigo**" or at least our non-Japanese attempts to include a "**seasonal note**" or create a "seasonal marker" in our haiku is a wonderful "extra treat" to include from time to time.

e.g.

apple blossom
its tune
buff-tailed bumblebee

and

heatwave ripples
Large Earth Bumblebees
fanning the home

Alan Summers

Note:

Bombus terrestris, the *buff-tailed bumblebee* or *large earth bumblebee*:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombus_terrestris

seasonal note (kigo): early Summer – Northern Hemisphere

And now I'd like to touch briefly on kire, which is still considered, perhaps, as a defining characteristic of haiku practice, with some quotes from Ban'ya Natsuishi (professor at Meiji University, director of the World Haiku Association, president of Ginyu Press, and director of the Tokyo Poetry Festival.)

Kire – The first cut is the deepest

[When haiku needs] *to overcome its shortness, a vital technique, kire (break) is used.*

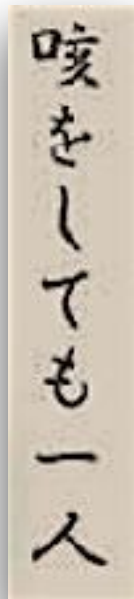
Contemporary haiku has teikei (fixed form) and jiyuritsu (free form).

Here is one of the shortest jiyuritsu haiku:

Coughing, even:
alone

Hosai Ozaki

せきをしてもひとり
— 尾崎放哉



Hosai Ozaki (1885-1926)

[This] *jiyuritsu* (free form) haiku consisting of "Coughing, even" (six sound units [on] in the original Japanese) and "alone" (three sound units [on] in the original), has *kire* (break), a shift in the content and rhythm between the two phrases. In only nine [on] of haiku, ***kire is the key that opens the reader's heart.***

Here we have an even shorter haiku:

陽へ病む

haiku by Ōhashi Raboku at 4 Japanese characters.

Not only is *kire* an important characteristic of haiku composition, but I wonder if it is the very technique that effectively allows the pre and non-haiku custom of seasonal greetings, that were such an integral part of daily spoken and written Japanese, to truly make haiku itself come alive?

In a forest of paper for the writer, the use of *kire* in a haiku, the famous poem with its extreme distillation, is perhaps, a useful method to incorporate: It makes the haiku poem both a miniature and expansive poem at the same time. *Kire* is a potent method of vitalising a short verse into a haiku: Looking at it in another way, an excellent poet is someone who can skilfully fold the *kire* inside the haiku.

Kire is both the catalyst and the glue to hold the other characteristics of haiku, and it makes it possible for recent contemporary haiku to express the leap in the poet's unique viewpoint and the shift in their poetic form.

Technique used in Modern Japanese Haiku: Vocabulary and Structure by Ban'ya Natsuishi: Japanese/English JAPANESE HAIKU 2001 (Modern Haiku Association, Tokyo, Japan, December 2000, ISBN 4-89709-336-8)

I've slightly adapted Ban'ya's English-language version of the following haiku, but retained his use of a slash to indicate the *kire*:

Behind, a stillness /
my image cut from
a forest of paper

Kan'ichi Abe (1928-2009)

In the space of stillness behind the poet, what his poetic intuition caught was a forest of white thin paper. This leap in poetic intuition, from one moment to the other, lies in the shift occurring between the phrases.

Here is an example of kire, kigo, and negative or white space, our attempt at Ma (間):

winter wheat
a breeze rattles
the wire act

Alan Summers

Both a straight 'kigo' with winter, and kire (cut)

winter wheat
//
a breeze rattles
the wire act

Plus negative space/white space of 'the wire act' which might suggest a bird, though the reader's imagination or experience can fill in the gap in other ways.

. . . Ma refers to any practice where absence is intentional, allowing one to further appreciate what is present. Within Japanese culture, it can be found in several disciplines including architecture, gardening, music, poetry, shodo (calligraphy), and ikebana (flower arrangement).

Ma (間) and Food: Making Time and Space for Thoughtful Consumption
Kokoro Care Packages 2018 article by Britney Budiman

And "back to.. KIGO"

quattuor tempestatibus tempora et insolitum tempus ovv impar tempestate

Adjectives for the seasons in parts of the world:

- brumal,
- vernal,
- estival (also aestival),
- and autumnal

Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall, respectively.

hard frost –
the snail-hammerings
of a song thrush

Alan Summers

oak and alder
the firecrest weaves
a restless song

Alan Summers

Firecrests can now be found as breeding birds in much of southern England. Elsewhere, they are typically seen over Winter or during Spring and Autumn migration, especially in the South-West (and on the east coast) of England:
<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/birds/tits-crests-and-warblers/firecrest#:~:text=Firecrests%20can%20now%20be%20found,the%20east%20coast%20of%20England>

snowflakes
but for the red
of this fox

Alan Summers

day-walking
through past memories
snowdrop festival

Alan Summers

Snowdrops, Schneeglöckchen
Location: Europe, America
Season: early Spring
Category: Plant

The Scottish Snowdrop Festival runs from January (Winter) to March (Beginning of Spring)
<https://www.discoverscottishgardens.org/the-snowdrop-festival/>

Now snowdrop festival might not be a kigo, if we already have snowdrops as a kigo for early Spring, so it might be kidai (topic) instead?

Kidai & Kigo 季題と季語

kidai - seasonal topic, seasonal theme

seasonal activity, seasonal event, seasonal subject matter.

Most are based on seasonal words used in Waka and traditional court poetry.

Usually the first word or head entry given in the list of kigo for one (item).

kigo - seasonal word, season word

seasonal aspect. Many were added during the Edo period with the growing popularity of haikai. They did not have such a deep-rooted poetic association.

Kigo are not only nouns, they can also include verbs and adjectives and be more than one word.

hon-i 本意 - "the real meaning" (honto no imi 本当の意味)

Poetic essence, other associations with this word. Essential nature. Codified emotion, cultural code meaning. The most difficult part, to explain the cultural background of a word.

Without the full understanding of "*hon-i, honi, hon'i*" it is hard to appreciate the use of kigo. A Japanese saijiki tries to explain the hon-i of a word.

In Japanese poetry, a lot of the hon'i dates back to classical Chinese poetry.

Dr Gabi Greve's truly indispensable World Kigo Database

<https://haikutopics.blogspot.com/2007/05/kidai-and-kigo.html>

The terms kigo and its partner term kidai are Post-Isolation Japan:

After haiku became a fully independent genre, the term "kigo" was coined by Otsuzi Ōsuga (1881-1920) in 1908.

"Kigo" is thus a new term for the *new genre approach of "haiku."*

*So, when we are looking historically at hokku or haikai stemming from the renga tradition, it seems best to use the term "**kidai**."*

*Although the term "**kidai**" is itself new—coined by Hekigotō Kawahigashi in 1907!*

Itō, Yūki. The Heart in Season: Sampling the Gendai Haiku Non-season Muki Saijiki, preface in Simply Haiku vol 4 no 3, 2006

- <https://www.thehaikufoundation.org/omeka/files/original/c7bea4d53c1ed337b7b361bb2bfe0794.pdf>
- <http://www.gendaihaiku.com/research/kigo/04-heart-in-season.htm>

withering wind
secure your summer
with a super-low deposit

Alan Peat
previously unpublished

Alan Peat says:

The ***withering wind*** haiku is aiming for the juxtaposition of a traditional Winter kigo and the early-booking Summer holiday advertisements that start just after Christmas.

Alan tells us he also wanted the seasons to ‘*merge*’ and suggest something about climate-warming, as is his similar intention with the ‘***go to assistant*** ku’.

We’ve often seen fashion shops sell/promote clothing and other weather accoutrements ‘out of season’ according to our practical needs.

winter —
the warm digital greeting
of my *go-to assistant*

Alan Peat
previously unpublished

phlox moon
the different shades
of its forest

Alan Summers

NOTE: phlox moon/pink moon=April/Spring

Easter Quarantine
the daylight sparkles across
yet another nail

Easter Sunday
I fill another hollow
with antiseptic

Easter Internment
moonlight carries a warning
across my backyard

Alan Summers

Composed and published during Covid-19 (Easter Monday 13th April 2020)

Easter can be any time between March 22 and April 25.

In 2020 it fell on Sunday, April 12th

In 2024 it falls on Sunday, March 31st

the cat's in love
night becomes Magritte
with a bowler hat

Alan Summers

Note:

early Spring seasonal reference

neko no koi 猫の恋 “*cats in love*”

local pride festival
glints of perfect nail colour
in the pint of lager

Alan Summers

Seasonal reference: June

Pride Month (LGBTQIA+) is a Summer celebration held through June.

green walnuts
we gather them
before stars

Alan Summers

Seasonal reference: late June

Pickled green walnuts are made from the unripe fruit and must be prepared before the shell has formed. In some English circles they are known as the *King of Pickles*.

Pickled walnuts are excellent with all cold meats and cheeses, and most recipes say in Britain that late June is about the best time to pick them.

the green
of the woodland
bluebell seedheads

Karen Hoy

Seasonal reference: July

Leaves start to die back, flower stalks produce three-lobed seed pods.

vesper flights
the ever-falling blue
of swifts

Alan Summers

Seasonal reference: Summer

Vesper flights are the journey that great flocks of Swifts take at dusk and dawn, ascending to a height of 6,000 feet, into the earth's connective boundary layer, where they disappear into the clouds and the darkness and can no longer be seen. The "ascents" are often called vesper flights, named after the Latin vesper for evening.

baby robins
the world is reset
for a moment

Alan Summers

(European robin *Erithacus rubecula* UK)

Northern Hemisphere Summer (July)

The Life of Baby Robins: From Hatchlings to Fledglings

Last updated: December 2023

<https://birdfact.com/articles/baby-robins-all-you-need-to-know>

hawthorn in berry
an adult robin teaches
its mating call

Alan Summers

Note: early to mid-Autumn period

siren song
as a fire station
empty boots

Elliot Diamond
previously unpublished

What is the life expectancy of a firefighter in the United States?

Life expectancy for firefighters is 10 years less than for individuals with other occupations. The frequency of leaving the job due to health problems was 60% higher among firefighters than among individuals working in other industries.

Seasonality and Coronary Heart Disease Deaths in United States Firefighters
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3756551/>

The September 11 attacks (New York City 2001)

9/11 by the numbers: 8:46 a.m. and 9:02 a.m.

Time the burning towers stood: 56 minutes and 102 minutes.

Time they took to fall: 12 seconds. From there, they ripple out.

Number of firefighters and paramedics killed: **343**

September 11 by Numbers
New York Magazine

Despite advancements in DNA technology, roughly 40% of the victims (1,100 people) thought to have died in the disaster, remain unidentified.

CNN September 2023

autumn deepens...
a passenger squirrels away
his season ticket

Alan Summers

peat smoke—
one more angel's share
of handcrafted whisky

Alan Summers

Seasonal notes:

Silent season is traditionally a period observed by all whisky distilleries. It dates back hundreds of years when farmers themselves set about making whisky right after the barley harvest in September. The distilling season would then go on until late Spring.

Glengoyne

Silent season: An important tradition in whisky-making

why do we kiss
under the mistletoe
snow angels

Alan Summers

Origins:

In the Norse culture, the Mistletoe plant was a sign of love and peace. The story goes that the goddess, Figg lost her son, the god Baldur, to an arrow made of mistletoe. After his death, she vowed that Mistletoe would kiss anyone who passed beneath so long as it was never again used as a weapon. —The Curious KISSstory of Mistletoe - Ambius

The tradition of kissing under the mistletoe started in ancient Greece, during the festival of Saturnalia and later in marriage ceremonies, because of the plant's association with fertility. During the Roman era, enemies at war would reconcile their differences under the mistletoe, which to them represented peace.

Live Science: Pucker Up! Why Do People Kiss Under the Mistletoe?

The origin of kissing under the mistletoe is shrouded in uncertainty, but it is believed the ancient Greeks celebrated the winter holiday of Kronia—a lively festival and one of the biggest of the year—with mistletoe and may have started the tradition of kissing under it.

Dec 2020 What Is "Mistletoe" And Why Do We Kiss Under It? Dictionary dot com

Is mistletoe a British tradition?

The UK tradition of kissing under the mistletoe is thought to have started in the 1700s, but it became much more popular throughout the 1800s. The Victorians especially became big fans of puckering up under the plant - and it's stuck ever since!

Why do people kiss under the mistletoe? - BBC Newsround (23 Dec 2022)

Will the seasons become a "*rhinestone chimera*"?

The Chimera (also referred to as Chimaera) is a draconic creature from ancient Greek mythology. She is a hybrid with the head and body of a lion, the tail of a dragon.

Ipsa Draconis Tarso

The ankle of the dragon itself is just a start . . .



here be dragons
I tape a kigo to my ankle
and trail another

Ankle Notes

I slide a kigo

First publication credit: tinywords 20.2 (November 2020)

Anthology credit: Haiku 2021 (Lee Gurga & Scott Metz, editors (Modern Haiku Press)

Features:

- 2021 Southern California Haiku Study Group Zoom Presentation
- re:Virals 283 (February 2021)

The Haiku Foundation's weekly poem commentary feature on some of the finest haiku ever written in English.

Comments extract:

Marion Clarke unveils the cinematic:

A fine haiku from Alan Summers that comes with a soundtrack! We are presented with the rumble of thunder in the first line, that also conjures up an image of a threatening sky. Intriguingly, in line two we learn that the speaker is sliding a kigo — but what does this mean?

Peggy Bilbro reacts as a poet and a warrior:

It wants to slide away from the gun, the bullet, and the sounds of war that...underlie the words. [T]he idea of a poem as a weapon against the injustices of life...[I]t seems that Alan has caught the perfect balance that forces the reader to exist between the implicit and the explicit, wishes and facts, creation and destruction, poet and warrior. This is a poem that will stay with me for a very long time.

renga into renku

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renku>

demolition site

Honourable Mention, Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival 2020

Feature:

Analysis of the Haiku structure by Serge Tomé

<https://www.tempslibres.org/tl/tlphp/dbhk03.php?id=9816&lg=e>

nuclear winter

Coch Rhi Ben (haibun) Blithe Spirit (February 2018)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cock_Robin#Origin_and_meaning

The haiku (deliberately numbered as 98) refers both to Banksy's famous image Girl with Balloon:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Girl_with_Balloon

and the famous song "99 Luftballons" ("99 balloons") which is an anti-war protest song by the German band Nena.

An English-language version titled "99 Red Balloons" with lyrics by Kevin McAlea, was also released on the album 99 Luftballons in 1984 after widespread success of the original in Europe and Japan. Of course now Japan is under nuclear threat by another country, just as they are unveiling a memorial to all those Japanese haiku poets who protested about entering the World War 2 arena.

In English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14IRDDnEPR4>

German: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lur-SGI3uw8>

Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/99_Luftballons

And: <http://www.eightyeightynine.com/music/99luftballons-english.html>

Ōhashi Raboku

Japanese poet Ōhashi Raboku (1890-1933) holds the record for the world's shortest poem.

With just 4 Japanese letters, this haiku: hi e yamu means "Sick with the sun"

(translation: Donald Keene).

or oft-quoted as "I am sick with the sun."—Keene's tr., in which "I am" expresses ideas included in the original, but not its words).

Dawn to the West: Japanese Literature in the Modern Era—Poetry, Drama, Criticism.

(Note that there is another volume with the same title, only differing at the end, where "Fiction" replaces "Poetry, Drama, Criticism"; that other volume is over 1300 pages long, and is not for sale here.)New York: Henry Holt, 1984. Paperback, 6×9.25" (15.5×23.5 mm), 685+xiv pp.

The Haiku Seasons

The Haiku Seasons, Poetry of the Natural World, William J. Higginson, Stone Bridge Press ISBN: 978-1-933330-65-5

Web page: [http://www.stonebridge.com/catalog/the-haiku-seasons?](http://www.stonebridge.com/catalog/the-haiku-seasons?A=SearchResult&SearchID=2228829&ObjectID=12010339&ObjectType=35)

[A=SearchResult&SearchID=2228829&ObjectID=12010339&ObjectType=35](http://www.stonebridge.com/catalog/the-haiku-seasons?A=SearchResult&SearchID=2228829&ObjectID=12010339&ObjectType=35)

The Haiku Handbook

The Haiku Handbook: How to Write, Share, and Teach Haiku

William J. Higginson and Penny Harter (Kodansha International, Japan 1989 and later editions)

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/563541/the-haiku-handbook-25th-anniversary-edition-by-william-j-higginson-and-penny-harter-foreword-by-jane-reichhold/>

cloud kigo

Asahi Shimbun (Japan, 2013)

Part correspondence, part quote from Asahi Shimbun.

David McMurray writes a haiku column for the Asahi Newspaper (Asahi Shimbun, Japan). He is Professor of Intercultural Studies at The International University of Kagoshima (Japan) and judges haiku contests organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Asahi Culture Center, Matsuyama City, and Seinan Jo Gakuin University.

comfort television

Published *Under the Bashō* vol. 1.1 Autumn 2013 (a revision of an article originally published in the now-defunct *Multiverses* 1.1, 2012). Later published by The Poetry Society of New Zealand.

kicking

Publication credits: *Azami* #38 ed. Ikkoku Santo (Japan, 1996); *Birmingham Words* Issue 3 (Autumn 2004)

Television: BBC 1 - Regional arts feature, November 2003 (BBC 1 - British Broadcasting Television)

Anthology Credit: *Haiku Friends* Vol. 3 ed. Masaharu Hirata (Japan, 2009)

Article: *The Unseen Go-Between in Haiku* by Alan Summers (Haiku Society of America newsletter, Haiku Spotlight, January 2022)

early dark

First publication credit: *Blithe Spirit* vol.13 no.1 (March 2003)

Anthology credit: *Another Country: Haiku Poetry from Wales* ed. Nigel Jenkins, Ken Jones and Lynne Rees (Gomer Press 2011)

Features: *World of Haiku: Poets of Wales* (The Haiku Foundation, 2020)

re:Virals 139

The Haiku Foundation's weekly poem commentary feature on some of the finest haiku ever written in English (May, 2018)

Easter Sunday

More than one fold in the paper: Kire, kigo, and the vertical axis of meaning in haiku by Alan Summers

Published *Under the Bashō* vol. 1.1 Autumn 2013 (a revision of an article originally published in the now-defunct *Multiverses* 1.1, 2012). Later published by The Poetry Society of New Zealand.

unspooling

Haiku: The Keyhole of its Details by David Briggs & Alan Summers (*Blithe Spirit*, vol. 25 no. 3, August 2015)

early spring, dandelion fluff...

An Unswept Path (a collection of monastery haiku – part one) 2015

lime quarter

Publication Credits: *Presence* No.13 (2001); *tinywords* (2004); *See Haiku Here* haiga ed. Kuniharu Shimizu (Japan, 2011); *hajinx* volume IV, issue 1 (2011); *Seven By Twenty* (Twitter magazine, 2010); *Under the Bashō* Vol 1.1 Autumn 2013

Features: *Blogging Along Tobacco Road:* Alan Summers - Three Questions by Curtis Dunlap (2010); Derbyshire Library Service Poem a Month (June 2011); THF Per Diem series *Haiku of the Senses* (March 2012); *tempslibres* - free times (French language *Analysis of the Haiku structure* feature 2013-03-1 <http://www.tempslibres.org/tl/tlphp/dbhk03.php?id=4602&lg=>); Cornell University, Mann Library, U.S.A. "Daily Haiku" poet curated by Tom Clausen (October 2001); The Haiku Foundation Per Diem Archive: Paul David Mena, May 2020, Wine and Song

Article: *The Thin White Expanse* by Alan Summers (*Multiverses* 1.1, 2012)

Anthology credits:

Haiku Friends vol.1 ed. Masaharu Hirata (Osaka, Japan, 2003);

City: Bristol Today in Poems and Pictures, Paralaia (2004);

naad anunaad: an anthology of contemporary international haiku ed. Shloka Shankar Sanjuktaa Asopa, Kala Ramesh (India, 2016)

TV, newspaper, magazine and other media credits:

BBC 1 - Regional television arts feature (November 2003); *Seven* magazine feature: "Three lines of simple beauty" (2006); Bristol Evening Post article (2002); *BroadcastLab*, ArtsWork Bath Spa University (Haiku poet-in-residence 2006 - 2007); THFhaiku app for iPhone/iPad/iPod Touch (2011)

Exhibition Credits:

Floating World Japanese Festival

Joint linocuts exhibition with Trevor Haddrell

Bristol Floating Harbour UK (September 2003)

East meets West

The Art Gym - Hengrove Community Arts College

linocuts with Trevor Haddrell (November 2003)

The Haiku Experience - Alan Summers & Karen Hoy

Front Room - Totterdown Art Trail (also partly filmed by BBC TV, Bristol UK November 2003)

the in-between season

Publications credits: World Haiku Review Japan Article *Vending machines and cicadas* (2003); *Travelogue on World Haiku Festival 2002* (Akita International Haiku Network, Part 1, 2010);

Collection: *The In-Between Season* (With Words Haiku Pamphlet Series 2012)

Toshugu shrine pines

Article:

World Haiku Review Japan Article - Vending machines and cicadas (March 2003); *Travelogue on World Haiku Festival 2002 Part 1* (Akita International Haiku Network 2010)

Journal: Hermitage ed. Ion Codrescu (Romania 2005)

Anthology Credit: *We Are All Japan* ed. Robert D. Wilson & Saša Važić (Karakia Press 2012)

Collection: *The In-Between Season* (With Words Haiku Pamphlet Series 2012)

Snow out of season

Favourite Haiku feature by Alan Summers (New Zealand Poetry Society, April 2016)

a flink of cows

Blithe Spirit 2014

whispered echo

Frogpond issue 45:3 Autumn 2022

apple blossom

Twitter (Wales Haiku Journal, April 2023)

heatwave ripples

Haiku Dialogue opposites hot/cold ed. kjmunro (Haiku Foundation, August 2020)

winter wheat

Australian Haiku Society Winter Solstice Haiga Kukai 2020: Seasonal Contest July 6th 2020

hard frost

First publication Credit:

Muttering Thunder, an annual of fine haiku & art ed. Allan Burns with Ron Moss vol. 1, 2014

Haiku Calendar credit: *The Haiku Calendar 2016* (Snapshot Press, 2015)

Award Credit: Runner-up, *The Haiku Calendar Competition 2015*

Article/exercise: *Ginko: All Fingers and Thumbs* with Alan Summers (Blithe Spirit 33.3 August 2023 ed. Iliyana Stoyanova)

Features:

Miriam's Well: Poetry, Land Art, and Beyond ed. Miriam Sagan (February 2015)

Brass Bell Showcase: Alan Summers curated by Zee Zahava (July 2015)

Blōō Outlier Journal issue 3 (the natural history haiku edition, Summer 2022) dedicated to Gene Murtha

oak and alder

Contest: *Commended, Anam Cara 2019 Haiku Competition (Ireland)*

Joint Collection: *The Comfort of Crows* by Hifsa Ashraf & Alan Summers (Velvet Dusk Publishing, December 2019)

snowflakes

Haiku Prism – Red: Our World in Red ed Tia Haynes (THF *Haiku Dialogue* May 2020)

Anthology credit: *entering the earth* (EarthRise Rolling Haiku Collaboration 2021)

withering wind

Features:

Ankle of the Dragon by Alan Summers

(The Pan Haiku Review Issue 2 Winter 2023 *Kigo Lab Special* ed. Alan Summers)

Unsold Sofas and Asparagus Sprouts: (Chasing the Kigo) by Alan Peat

(The Pan Haiku Review Issue 2 Winter 2023 *Kigo Lab Special* ed. Alan Summers)

winter

Features:

Ankle of the Dragon by Alan Summers

(The Pan Haiku Review Issue 2 Winter 2023 *Kigo Lab Special* ed. Alan Summers)

Unsold Sofas and Asparagus Sprouts: (Chasing the Kigo) by Alan Peat

(The Pan Haiku Review Issue 2 Winter 2023 *Kigo Lab Special* ed. Alan Summers)

phlox moon

Posted: Australian Haiku Society Spring Equinox Haiku String 2019 (September 23rd 2019)

Anthology credit: *entering the earth* (EarthRise Rolling Haiku Collaboration 2021)

Easter Quarantine, Easter Sunday, Easter Internment

First Publication credit:

Eleven is an Even Number: Covid Chronicles

weird laburnum ed. Michael O'Brien (Easter Monday 13th April 2020)

Anthology credits:

Corona Social Distancing: Poets for Humanity ed. hülya n. yılmaz (inner child press international May 2020)

Poetry in the Plague Year Poems written during the Coronavirus Outbreak 2020 (*Poetry Kit publishing*)

the cat's in love

Asahi Shimbun ed. David McMurray (Japan, March 2020)

local pride festival

Ginko: *All Fingers and Thumbs* with Alan Summers (Blithe Spirit 33.3 August 2023 ed. Iliyana Stoyanova)

green walnuts

Mainichi Shimbun, Japan (June 26, 2019) ed. Dhugal J. Lindsay

the green

Ginko: *All Fingers and Thumbs* with Alan Summers (Blithe Spirit 33.3 August 2023 ed. Iliyana Stoyanova)

vesper flights

HAIKU DIALOGUE – Opposites Attract – day/night ed. kjmunro (September 2020)

baby robins

Publication credit: Presence issue #61 2018

Anthology: *a hole in the light: The Red Moon Anthology of English-Language Haiku* 2018

Feature/Interview:

Meet... Alan Summers Interview by Gilles Fabre (Seashores Issue 9, November 2022)

hawthorn in berry

First published:

Blōō Outlier Journal issue 3 dedicated to Gene Murtha (the natural history haiku edition, Summer 2022) ed. Alan Summers

Feature/Interview: *Meet... Alan Summers* Interview by Gilles Fabre (Seashores Issue 9, November 2022)

siren song

First featured: **Ankle of the Dragon** by Alan Summers

(The Pan Haiku Review Issue 2 Winter 2023 *Kigo Lab Special* ed. Alan Summers)

autumn deepens...

Bacopa Literary Review (June 2019) ed. Kaye Linden

Writers Alliance of Gainesville - HAIKU 2019

peat smoke

Sippin' haibun, Blithe Spirit Vol. 25 issue 2 (2015) ed. Dave Serjeant

PAID Reading / Performance:

zoom reading: International Page and Stage (Northern Ireland): "Short form Poets from around the world" in association with the New Zealand Poetry Society (November 2022)

introduced by Gordon Hewitt, with Shelley Tracey, from South Africa now living in Northern Ireland

why do we kiss

Shadow Pond Journal issue 2 (Winter 2023) ed. Katherine E Winnick

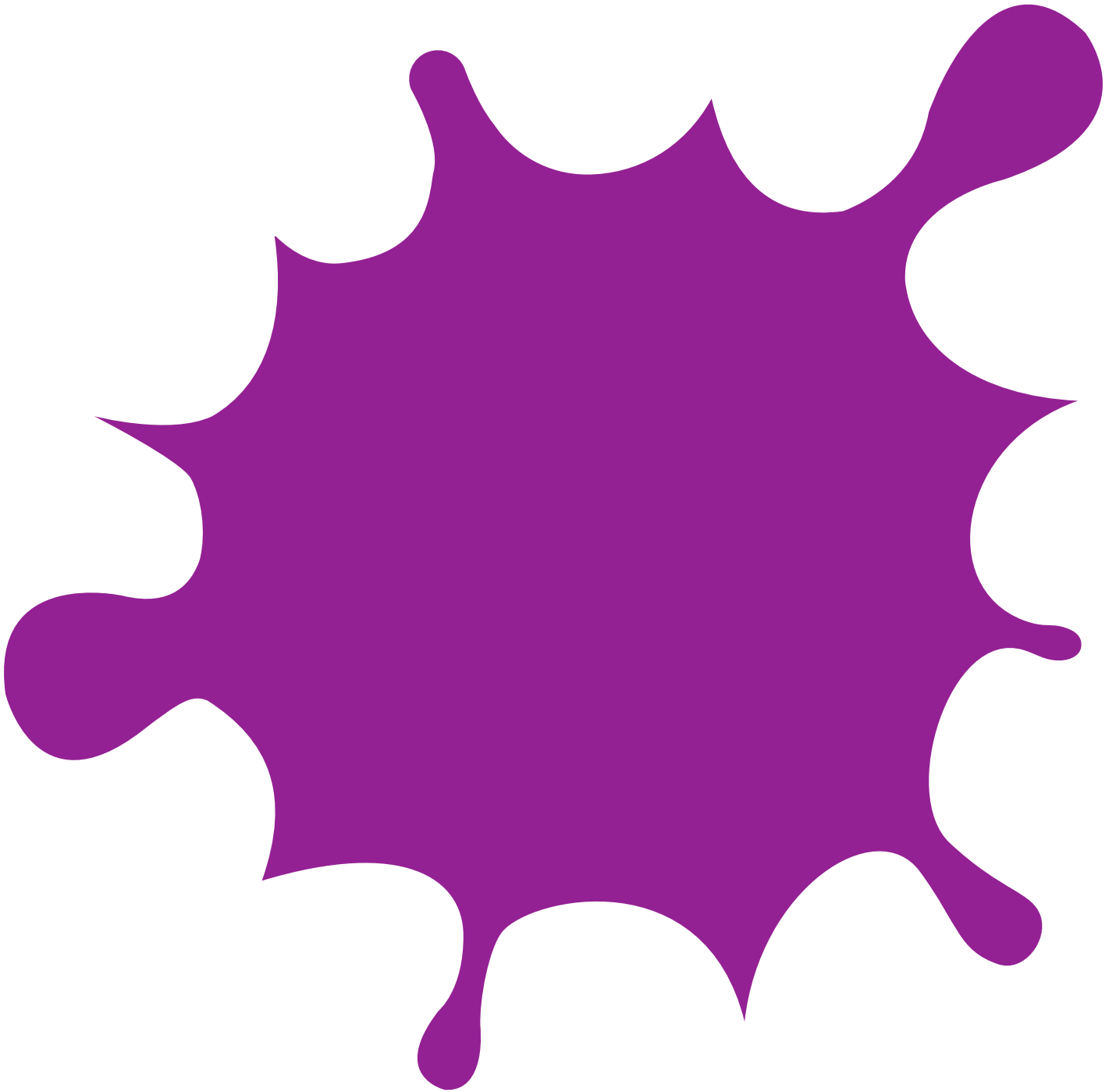
Touchstone Award nominated

here be dragons

HAIKU DIALOGUE – the way of the thief ed. Craig Kittner (The Haiku Foundation, July 2020)

Alan Summers

Ankle of the Dragon©Alan Summers 2023



Unsold Sofas and Asparagus Sprouts: (*Chasing the Kigo*) by Alan Peat

I'm currently exploring juxtapositions of the traditional and the modern: As both are equally valid, combining them in a single haiku interests me.

asparagus sprouts
unsold sofas
almost for free

Alan Peat
previously unpublished

'*asparagus sprouts*' is a traditional Spring kigo.

asparagus アスパラガス asuparagasu, asupara

Asparagus was introduced to Japan in the Edo period, and is said to be similar to *udo* (*Aralia cordata*). It comes in green, white, and purple varieties.

The rest of the ku uses less traditional imagery—a directly quoted Spring sale notice in a furniture warehouse window.

Regarding the first line, a **traditional Spring kigo**, and that the following two lines are a direct quote from a 'Spring sale' advertisement from a furniture store, I wanted to balance the traditional and the modern—both are equally valid.

I was also trying to suggest that both images are, in a sense, the tips of two icebergs. The sprouts have yet to fully form, and the Spring sale really is the tip of a consumerist iceberg. The reason I'm writing this is because the haiku isn't wilfully obscure. I'm sure that's the reason why it's so hard to find a home for this kind of ku. I guess I wanted to explain my thinking...

sleeping mountain
over red gore-tex
blankets of snow

Alan Peat
previously unpublished

What I hope is important about them—whether they are successful or not—is the idea that the traditional and modern are not mutually exclusive.

The Gore-tex one actually feels quite traditional to me—the buried climber and the deliberate play of ‘blankets’: It’s a dark slumber.

More previously unpublished haiku with kigo by Alan Peat:

blossom clouds —
next door pressure washing
the concrete pavement

scarecrow —
compact discs
catch the sun

winter —
the warm digital greeting
of my *go-to assistant*

red-turned leaves
the din of blowers
in a cul-de-sac

first sun
credit crunch sales
spark stampede

withering wind
secure your summer
with a super-low deposit

The last one is *aiming for the juxtaposition of a traditional Winter kigo* and the early-booking Summer holiday advertisements that start just after Christmas.

I also wanted the seasons to ‘merge’ and suggest something about climate-warming.

And there’s a similar intention with the ‘*go to assistant* ku’.

I think the one I'm happiest with is the cherry blossom ku - I haven't come across another ku with a pressure washer in it. And it's a real image. Not a contrived one.

blossom clouds —
next door pressure washing
the concrete pavement

Note by Alan Summers:

Certain single keywords actually mean an automatic phrase:

- moon = autumn, usually the Harvest Moon in particular
- blossom = cherry blossoms only, never plum, apple, pear or other types of blossoms

The Modern Kigo Project

the first Modern Kigo Contest
(judged blind by Réka Nyitrai & Alan Peat)
The Modern Kigo competition results January 2022

Scoring both ku and kigo so there couldn't be any unconscious bias.

Winner

Alan Summers United Kingdom

new kigo: creeping sepia

Season: Autumn

Definition: The transition into Autumn (Fall) as Summer fades, with a growing mixture of climate change effects, and nostalgia for when the seasons were clearly defined.

creeping sepia
the rustle of non-humans
at first light

Alan Summers

2nd place

Laurie D. Morrissey USA

new kigo: cricket moon

Season: Summer

Definition: A summer full moon can be described as a "cricket moon."

cricket moon
the drifting scent
of wild apples

Laurie D. Morrissey

Joint 3rd place

Mary Stevens USA
Edward Cody Huddleston USA

Mary Stevens USA

New Kigo: cuffing season

Season: Winter.

Begins in October and lasts until just after Valentine's Day.

Definition: cuffing season as "a period of time where single people begin looking for short term partnerships to pass the colder months of the year."

cuffing season
his warm hands
on the small of my back

Mary Stevens

Edward Cody Huddleston USA

New Kigo: mothball moon

Season: Winter

Definition: Mothball moon refers to a winter moon that appears small or distant. The moon can be in any phase that allows it to resemble a pellet from the viewer's angle. It's a winter kigo because the whiteness of mothballs is evocative of snow flurries.

mothball moon
my last Christmas
with Grandma

Edward Cody Huddleston

Honourable mention: Lorraine A Padden USA

New Kigo: vanishing white.

Non-seasonal topic; humanity — but “white” is also associated with autumn, as noted in the World Kigo Database.

Definition: snow that disappears in the transition from winter to spring; also the progressive degradation of cold weather habitats due to global warming.

vanishing white
a polar bear dissolves
in the distance

Lorraine A Padden

Honourable mention: Cam M. Sato USA

New Kigo: sugar snow

Season: Spring

Definition: Sugar snow is a heavy, wet snow that falls in the spring, typically when the maple sap is flowing.

sugar snow
the snowman’s last
sweet hurrah

Cam M. Sato

<https://weirdlaburnum.wordpress.com/2022/02/01/the-modern-kigo-competition-results>

Creeping Sepia:

Alan Summers,
and his full saijiki notes for:
The 1st Modern Kigo Competition
(January 2022)



This was my full entry which helped win that very first international modern kigo contest:

Alan Summers full saijiki notes

new kigo: creeping sepia

Season: Autumn

Short Definition:

The transition into Autumn (Fall) as Summer fades, with a growing mixture of climate change effects, and nostalgia for when seasons were clearly defined.

Longer Definition:

A combination of the transition into Autumn (Fall) as Summer fades, and a mixture of climate change effects bringing out an urge for a nostalgia of historically fixed and clearly defined seasonal shifts of the past. This might also include childhood/family photographs that might have been in colour but now have a creeping sepia effect.

adjective: creeping

occurring or developing gradually and almost imperceptibly.

noun: sepia

Sepia ink was commonly used within the Greco-Roman era, and remained in common use as an artist's drawing material until the 19th century. Acclaimed Russian film director Andrei Tarkovsky used a sepia tone in his 1979 science-fiction movie *Stalker* to visually distinguish scenes set in the forbidden Zone from the real world:

“the poet in his brown coat – a figure enmeshed in ground.”

Stalker (film)

Sepia sometimes seen as the “Colour of Nostalgia” now, often runs into *Bladerunner Sepia* (orange skies of pollution).

Now, with changes in the seasonal cycles fast-forwarded by humanity, the normal changes are no longer immutable, sometimes creeping up on us, and into the rest of nature.

This kigo also exudes Mono No Aware (物の哀れ) (n.) lit. “the pathos of things”; the awareness of the impermanence of transience of all things and the gentle sadness and wistfulness at their passing as well as a longer, deeper gentle sadness about this state being the reality of life.

creeping sepia
the rustle of non-humans
at first light

Alan Summers
1st Prize
International Modern Kigo Competition
January 2022

The Judges' comments

Alan Peat:

This kigo really stands out from the crowd — '*creeping sepia*' is so evocative: it conjures a sense of nostalgia whilst also hinting at an underlying darkness. The accompanying haiku deftly draws the reader in with its multi-sensory appeal. And then there's the appealing strangeness of 'non-humans'. I'm sure that this is a kigo many poets will want to apply in their own work. A deserving winner in both our opinions.

Réka Nyitrai:

Sepia is the color of nostalgia. Nostalgia is an emotion, a feeling that in time does not diminish but grows. Nostalgia has soft shoes. For me this ku evokes an imagined future: the nostalgia of non-humans for the humans.

Other '*creeping sepia*' kigo by Alan Summers:

creeping sepia
the dusty sheen
of spent ammo

Alan Summers
Failed Haiku vol. 9 issue 97 (31st December 2023) ed. Allyson Whipple

creeping sepia
a dog that outran
the wind

Alan Summers
Presence issue #71 (2021)

creeping sepia the threshold of the forest becomes song thrush

Alan Summers
Whiptail: journal of the single-line poem issue 2 (January 2022)

creeping sepia
the gravity inside
beech masts

Alan Summers
Blōo Outlier Journal issue 3
the natural history haiku edition (Summer 2022) ed. Alan Summers
dedicated to Gene Murtha

creeping sepia
the dust motes
of rifles

Seashores Issue 9 (November 2022)

Feature: Meet... Alan Summers interview by Gilles Fabre

PAID Reading / Performance:

zoom reading: International Page and Stage (Northern Ireland):

“Short form Poets from around the world” in association with the NZ Poetry Society
introduced by Gordon Hewitt, with Shelley Tracey, renowned poet from South Africa
now living in Northern Ireland (27th November 2022)

creeping sepia
snow globe pictures float
in the continuum

Alan Summers

Frogpond vol. 46:2 Spring/Summer 2023

Jacob D. Salzer, Managing Editor

& Nicholas Klacsanzky, Haiku & Senryu Editor

creeping sepia
the hint of forbidden sea
in the forest

Alan Summers

Five Fleas Itchy Poetry

fleakeeper, Robin / Roberta Beach Jacobson

October 31st Halloween 2023

creeping sepia
the rustle of non-humans
at first light

1st Place, The Modern Kigo Competition

judges: Alan Peat and Réka Nyitrai

(January 2022)

Under the Bashō 2022 Personal Best

2nd

The Modern Kigo Project Competition

The 2nd Modern Kigo Project Competition
'SPRING Season'

2022 WINNERS *WITH* JUDGES' COMMENTS:
(Réka Nyitrai & Alan Peat)

<https://tinyurl.com/KigoContest2>

1st place WINNER

simonj (UK)

KIGO: crakesticks

DEFINITION:

crakesticks: a dialectal word for a crow's nest; a near global phenomenon, Spring in a temperate climate; something new arising from the old.

HAIKU:

crakesticks
the brush pulls tight
in her tangled hair

Alan Peat's comments:

Both the kigo and the haiku intrigued me. The use of a dialect word (in this instance from Yorkshire, United Kingdom) as a kigo really appeals to me, allowing it to fly far beyond its original geographical location! Crakesticks works beautifully in the context of a haiku as it merges both the sound of a crow's / rook's nest (crake) with the look of the nest (sticks).

The final two lines create an evocative image and the alliteration is deftly handled.

Réka Nyitrai's comments:

What I value most is the poet's boldness in proposing a dialect word for the kigo and pairing it with an everyday image. The end result is both fresh and memorable. I also like that the poet left plenty of white space to be filled in by the reader.

Joint 2nd place

Hifsa Ashraf (Pakistan)

KIGO: moth nap

DEFINITION:

Spring is the season of transformation; it affects night sleep by causing short/insufficient sleep which may be depicted as a “moth nap”.

HAIKU:

moth nap—
drifting from dream
to dream

Alan Peat's comments:

There's a lilting, lullaby-like feel to this haiku which works so well. And the choice of the nocturnal moth for the kigo further adds to the whole. The idea that our dreams work in a different timescale to reality also added a touch of surreality—many dreams in a single '*moth nap*'!

Réka Nyitrai's comments:

The imagery of a moth nap(ping) is enigmatic. I particularly like that the poet constructs the imagery of her kigo around a moth rather than a butterfly.

Joint 2nd place

Benjamin Blasi (Switzerland)

KIGO: closing canopy

DEFINITION:

The kigo refers to the regrowth of leaves in deciduous forests in Spring when the canopies become more opaque and less light reaches the ground.

HAIKU:

closing canopy
a dark butterfly is falling
through a sunfleck

Alan Peat's comments:

There's a universality to this kigo and it offers so many possibilities for poets. The unusual association of darkness with Summer really lifts both the kigo and the resulting haiku. What light there is in the poem is merely a 'fleck'. This haiku will stay with me—to have found such darkness in the light was novel without in any way being gimmicky. That's quite an achievement.

Réka Nyitrai's comments:

What captured me was the haiku as a whole. The riotous greenness of the closing canopy, matched with the imagery of a butterfly falling through a fleck of sunlight, offered me a memorable visual image.

3rd place

Marcie Wessels (USA)

KIGO: peep-toe shoes

DEFINITION:

Spring is a season of transitions; heavy winter boots are packed away and a new wardrobe is brought out. For some, this includes peep-toe shoes. A peep-toe is a woman's shoe with an opening in the toe box which allows the toes to show. As a kigo, peep-toe is meant to capture the way all living beings slowly emerge from a period of dormancy and embrace change with cautious hope and optimism.

HAIKU:

peep-toe shoes
the eggshell blue nail polish
of an empty nester

Alan Peat's comments:

Footwear as a kigo—and why not? A lovely link and shift too. The choice of 'eggshell blue' amplified the Spring imagery and 'empty nester' made for a punchy closure.

Réka Nyitrai's comments:

Bringing a fashion item into the world of haiku and proposing it as a kigo is bold and confident! I like haiku poets who are original and dashing.

Honourable mentions:

kjmunro (Canada)

KIGO: migrating swans

DEFINITION:

Traditionally a Fall kigo in Japan, migrating swans are a symbol of Spring in the Yukon. After a long Winter, ice on the waterways begins to break up, providing resting places for swans & other birds en route to their nesting grounds further north.

HAIKU:

whiter than snow sound migrating swans

Alan Peat's comments:

The *monoku* is wonderfully handled. It made me pause and think about the sound of snow—both falling and lying snow. The synesthesia is deftly handled and the kigo really appealed—it's interesting to consider how one country's Autumn kigo may be another country's Spring kigo. It's pleasing to see a poet viewing this as an opportunity rather than a constraint. Beautifully done.

Réka Nyitrai's comments:

What sound is white? What sound is whiter even than snow? Does the poet refer to the thrumming sound the swan's wings make while flying or to the deep, trumpeting "oh-OH" call of the migrating Trumpeter swans? These are the questions I pondered whilst reading this imposing and impressive monoku.

Dan Iulian (Romania)

KIGO: abyssal blue

DEFINITION:

The color of the clear Spring sky, long seen when you lie on back in the grass, having the feeling that you are floating or sinking, as in a slow fall upward, without time, in a deeper and deeper blue, in which you abandon yourself and nothing matters anymore.

HAIKU:

abyssal blue
on the eagle's wings
the sky so lightweight

Alan Peat's comments:

When one reads the word 'abyssal' the depths of an ocean immediately come to mind. The poet cleverly inverts this image, rendering the sky itself abyssal. The idea that something so huge might be so light also appealed to me. The kigo is 'open' enough to provide poets with a multitude of possibilities.

Réka Nyitrai's comments:

I like how the poet describes deep blue! The image of the sky resting on the eagle's wings, lightly, easily is not only fresh, but memorable, too.

Note:

"Abyss is a pale, bright, blueberry blue with a wisteria undertone."

Abyss – PPG Paints

Mary Jo Balistreri: Startled into Flight

song of a hermit thrush
braided with autumn rain
the taste of that

Mary Jo Balistreri
Presence, #74, 2022
ed. Ian Storr

memory garden
the autumn-long grasses
gone to seed

Mary Jo Balistreri
previously unpublished

startled into flight
a beach leaves behind
snowy egrets

Mary Jo Balistreri
previously unpublished

AWARD: PHR2 Touchstone Award Nominated

Note:

A brilliant perspective haiku, and one that I feel Jane Reichhold would be very pleased about.

We see this effect many times in drama series and films, and it's called the Dolly Zoom Effect.

What is the dolly zoom effect in movies?

A dolly zoom is an in-camera effect where you dolly towards or away from a subject while zooming in the opposite direction. Also known as a zolly, this shot creates a sense of unease in the viewer, simulates a spatial warp, and can either shrink or extend distances based on the choice of direction.



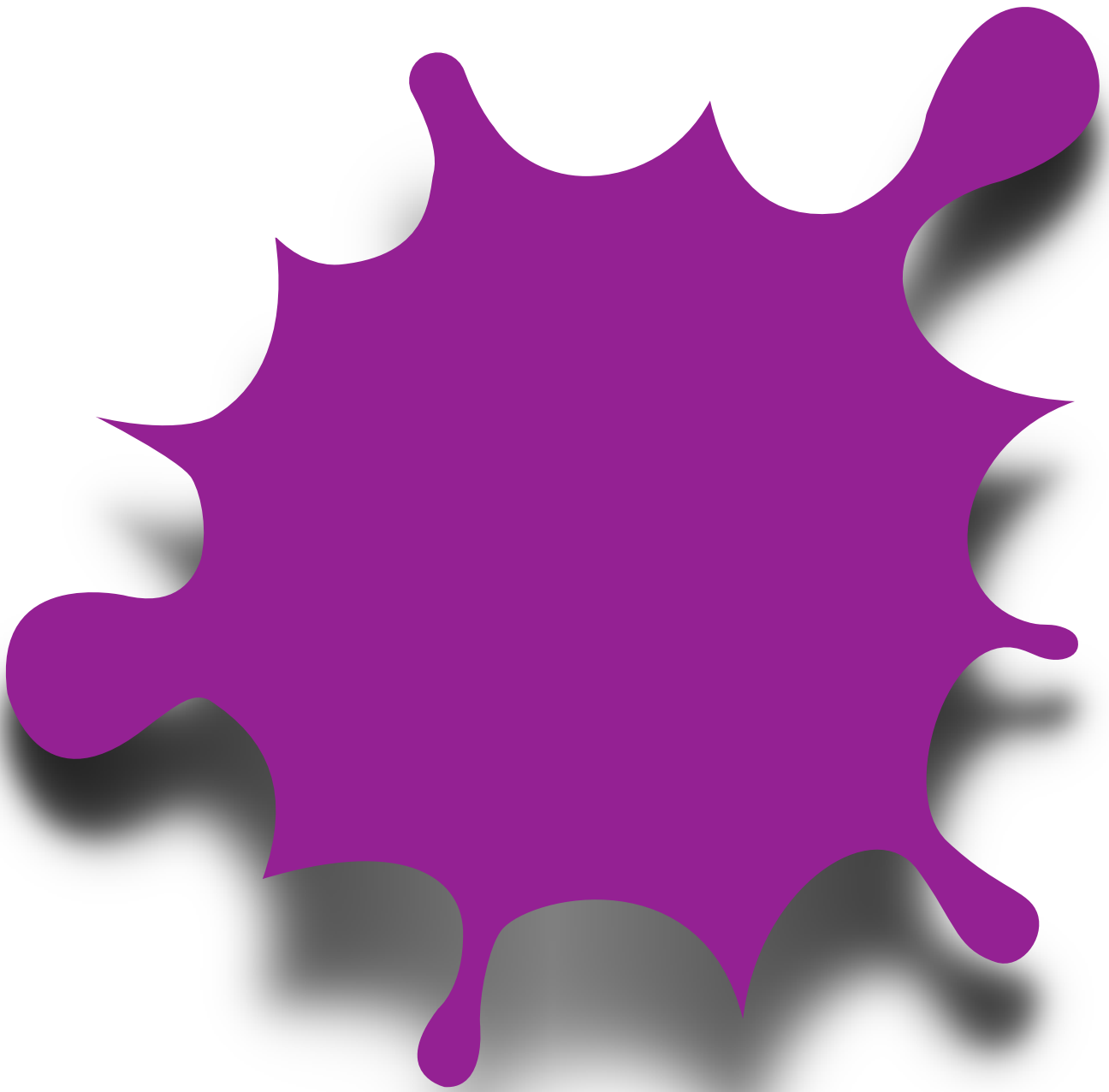
previously unpublished haiku:

the bleats
a six-year-old's big eyes
at newborn lambs

Mary Jo Balistreri

acorns underfoot
the crunch
goes for a walk

Mary Jo Balistreri



Joshua St. Claire: Periplum and Potatoes

potato soup
I serve my sons
our roots

Joshua St. Claire
The Heron's Nest XXIV, Number 3: September 2022

Simple potato soup is not exactly a fancy food, but one that brings back many pleasant memories. It was something that my grandfather or father would prepare when using up the old potatoes that we got for a song from a friend of the family who was a potato farmer. — Joshua St. Claire

Question: Early Spring?

Answer:

We were using up old potatoes for our soup, so, yes, this certainly could have been early spring. The Japanese do a more accurate job of parsing out seasons than we do in the West. This would have been emptying out the root cellar while the crocus are blooming (**early Spring**) rather than shoveling the walk to the root cellar (Winter).— Joshua St. Claire

periplum a cloudless sulphur from lupine to lupine

Joshua St. Claire
Previously unpublished

The sulphur family of butterflies was a common sight from my childhood, one I strongly associate with summer break.

— Joshua St. Claire

Question: Ah, periplum, lowercase or uppercase: Is this an allusion to T.S. Eliot as well?

Answer:

I encountered (and appropriated) periplum in Pound.

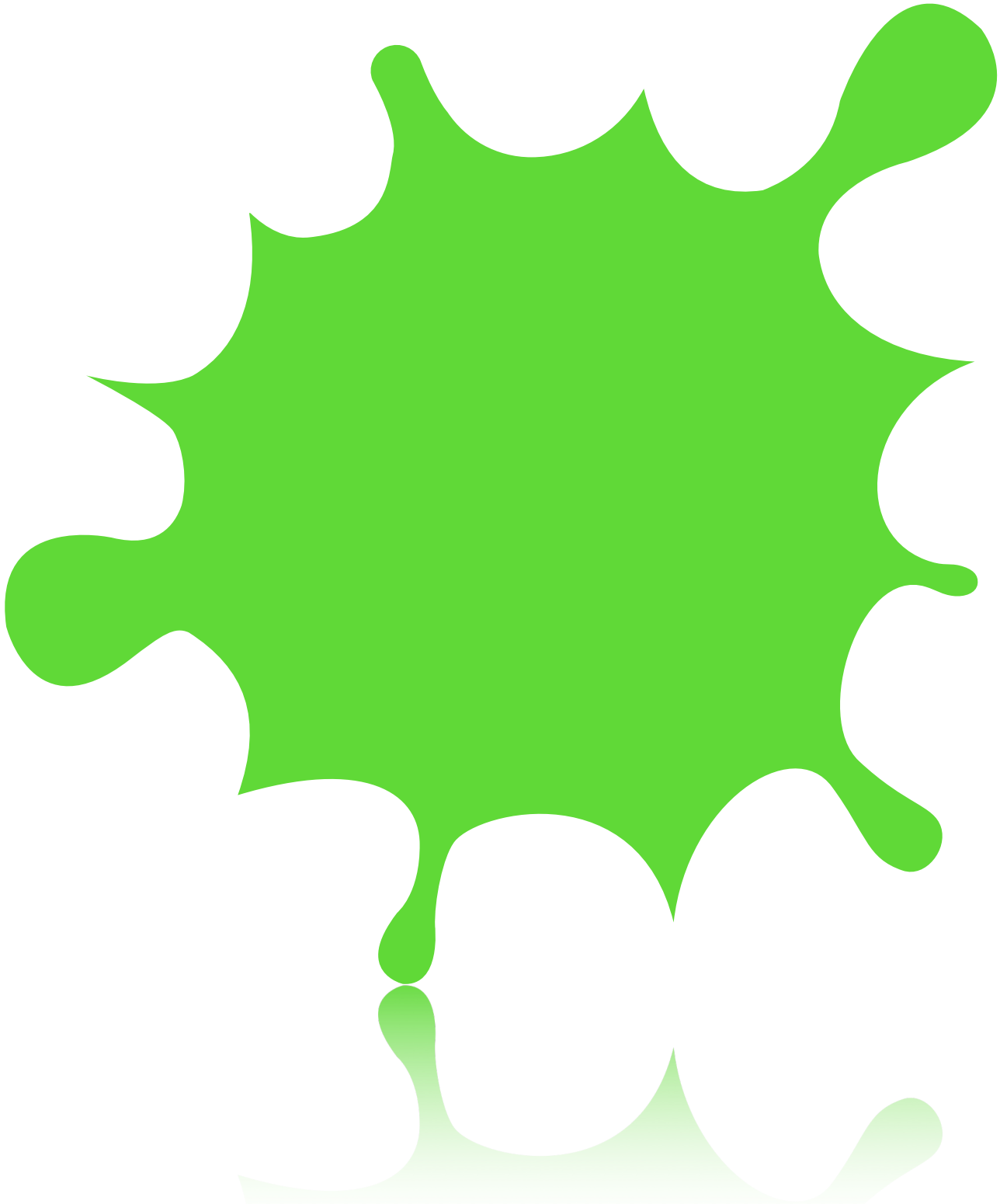
In Canto 74, stars on a journey (periplum) are revealed to be the morningstar (Lucifer) two lines down. Reminiscent of the sulphur—a beautiful insect with a hellfire name. Of course, this is my own humble reading and interpretation. I wasn't sure if this appeared in or was borrowed from Eliot by Pound. There is clearly some other allusion to Eliot by Pound in that Canto.

— Joshua St. Claire

Pound's life's work in poetry, *The Cantos*, remains a signal Modernist epic. Its mix of history, politics, and what Pound called "**the periplum**"—a point of view of one in the middle of a journey—gave countless poets incentive to develop a range of poetic techniques that capture life in the midst of experience.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/ezra-pound#:~:text=Pound%27s%20life%27s%20work%20in%20poetry,in%20the%20midst%20of%20experience>

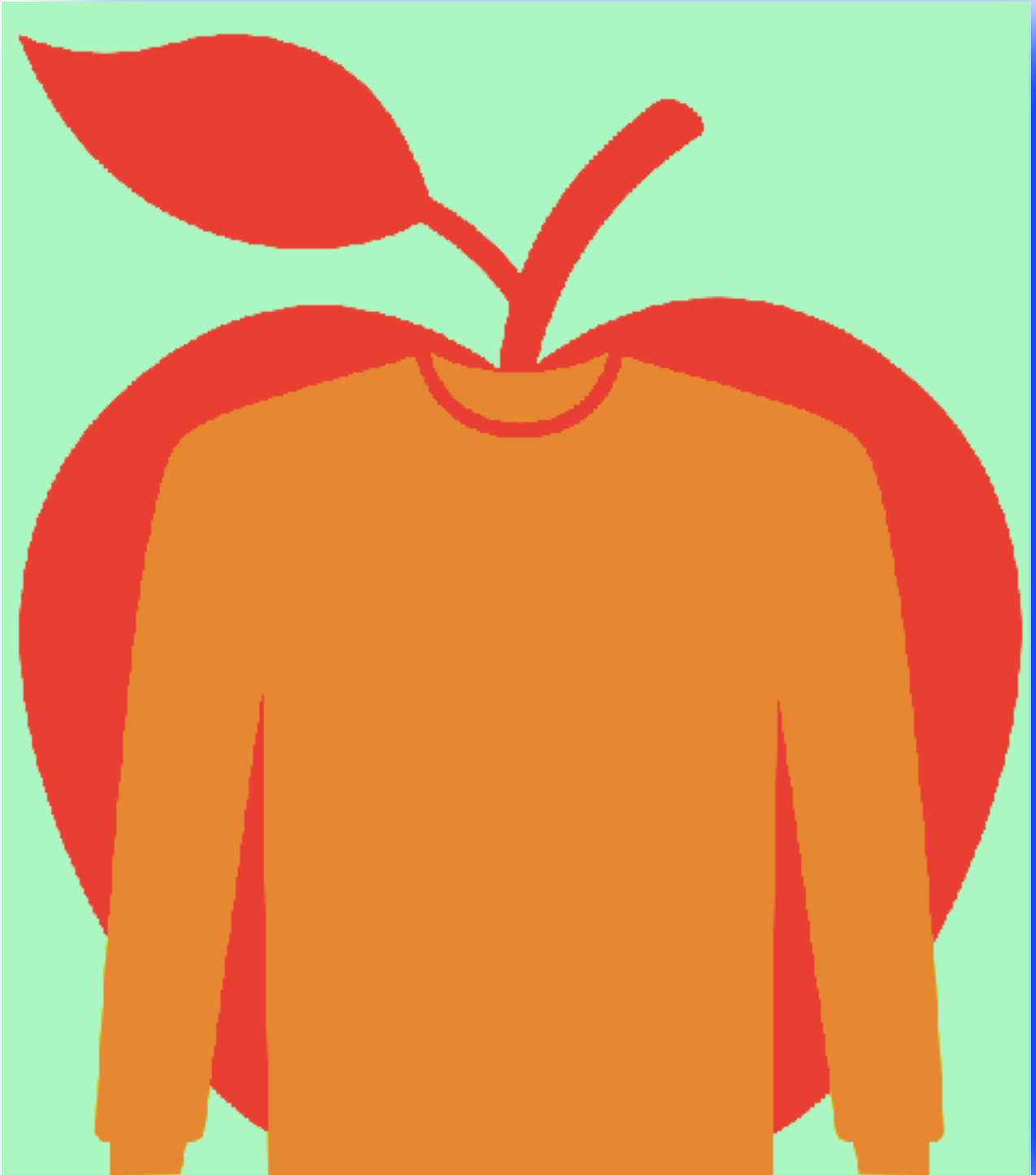
The Cantos | Cantos 74–84 : The Pisan Cantos | Summary
<https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Cantos/cantos-74-84-summary/#:~:text=Canto%2074,their%20feet%20from%20a%20scaffold>



why juxtaposition: *the shirt hung up on an apple*

why wrong can be right in haiku

Alan Summers (October/December 31st 2023)



Contrast *is a powerful thing.*

You can see the light of the stars at night only because of the darkness of space. By putting two separate things or concepts together, you can create contrast. This act is called juxtaposition. When you use it correctly, it can be a tool to enhance your writing.

By putting two separate concepts or objects next to each other, you create a contrast that shows the difference or similarity between them. This can help strengthen an argument, create an emotional response, or otherwise add meaning.

Devon Delfino
June 2022

Generate juxtapositions

Tasks if you want to use and add juxtaposition to your haiku:

- 1 Identify your main real-life object/image
- 2 Practice the opposite of it so it's alarmingly different and unrelated!
- 3 Consider *the entanglement of difference* ©Alan Summers
- 4 Investigate the contrast: Would you have consciously dared to pair those two images otherwise. **DARE TO PAIR**

We can often have a challenge to write just one more haiku, perhaps to add to a group to send out to a journal: We don't have nearly enough to feel like a healthy number. Your aim is to provide both number and variety: Has that been met. Was there enough variety, or were they too safe, too generic, too formulaic.

why juxtaposition: the shirt hung up on an apple why wrong can be right in haiku ©Alan Summers 2023

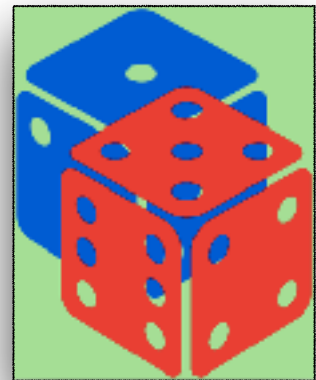
Was each poem really just one line explaining or enlarging on the other two lines.

Was it two lines explaining the other line of a haiku as if you didn't have enough faith in it, or the reader, editor, or even yourself.

Do you roll the dice to see what comes up, what comes out.
Do you roll the apple and decide what comes out of the box.

roll of the apple...
I decide to let birdsong
back out of the box

Alan Summers
Under the Bashō vol 1.1 (Autumn 2013)
ed. Don Baird & Hansha Teki
Season: *late Summer*



Dare the pair (juxtaposition), and instigate
humour, tension, unexpectedness, acknowledge the
ordinary in a fresh and new light.

conference pears
the dental veneers
of a boardroom

Alan Summers
unpublished
Season: *Autumn*



In “The Poems” section
any haiku without a
publication credit
means they are
previously unpublished,
and sent for this specific
Pan Haiku Review issue
2 theme.

The

Poems

the silence
mid-sentence —
stone-shadow snow

Alan Peat
Frogpond 45:2 Spring / Summer 2022

cracked rainbow
the dimming of color
winter smog

Elliot Diamond

clouds
front and centre
Daffodil Day

Helen Buckingham
Daffodil Day, Int. Cancer research Day

NOTES:

Cancer organisations around the world use the daffodil as a symbol of hope for all people affected by cancer. Daffodils mark the return of spring and new life.

<https://daffodilcentre.org/news/daffodil-centre-researchers-celebrate-world-cancer-research-day/>

The daffodil is a classic Spring flower that blooms from February through to May.

snow
its own
cathedral

Helen Buckingham
The Heron's Nest XIX.1, March 2017

the last one melting in the snow-jerk's grip cola float

Alan Summers

snowjerk or snow-jerk

A snowjerk is a snow chaser, as the snow decreases in some geographical areas, and increases in other areas. Snow will soon be like diamond dust.

Is snow on the verge of extinction?

In general, we should assume that winter will bring less and less ice and snow in the future. Soon, maybe it will even be goodbye winter! In times of climate change, it is increasingly difficult for snow and permafrost. 16 Jan 2022

<https://www.yourweather.co.uk/news/trending/is-snow-on-the-verge-of-extinction-meteored-s-experts-have-their-say-winter-climate-change.html#:~:text=In%20general%2C%20we%20should%20assume,difficult%20for%20snow%20and%20permafrost>

Snow's impact on Earth

Seasonal snow cover is the largest single component of the cryosphere in areal extent, covering an average of 46 million km² of Earth's surface (31% of land area) each year, and is thus an important expression of and forcing of the Earth's climate.

SnowEx | Snow - NASA



SnowEx 2023

<https://snow.nasa.gov/campaigns/snowex>

<https://snow.nasa.gov/snowex/campaigns>

How it will affect tourism

Climate change is also expected to affect tourism in Alpine regions such as Switzerland by reducing snow reliability. If climate change occurs, the altitude of snow-reliability will increase from 1200m (in 2002) to 1800m in upcoming years. Since snow cover is sensitive to variations in temperature and precipitation, major changes will take place due to climate change and this will affect the socio-economic conditions in the affected regions. It is evident that climate change will undoubtedly affect snowfall, snowpack, snow layers, and will lead to social, economic, and even humanitarian issues in the future.

Luleå University of Technology
Norrbotten County, Sweden

On 2 June 1975 snow showers forced the abandonment of several cricket matches across the country. The snowiest winter of the twentieth century in the United Kingdom was 1947. Between 22 January and 17 March, snow fell every day somewhere in the country: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/learn-about/weather/types-of-weather/snow/snow-in-the-uk#:~:text=On%202%20June%201975%20snow,day%20somewhere%20in%20the%20country>

Why can a warming climate increase snowfall?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/23/us/global-warming-snowfall.html>

Blizzards are predicted to become more intense in the face of climate change, despite shorter winters and rising global temperatures.

Snowzilla

The aptly named blizzard "Snowzilla" hit the Northeastern United States in January of 2016, causing great damage to the area.

The World is Getting Warmer Why All the Snow?

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/maybe-its-cold-outside/>

[#:~:text=Blizzards%20are%20predicted%20to%20become,winters%20and%20rising%20global%20temperatures](#)

snowfall —
the sound of wolves
staring

Eric Lohman

*The redness implies autumn, as does the “letting go” of leaves.
What a relief it can be to let go our burdens both physical and psychological.
The poem was inspired by a video of two wolves staring at potential prey.*

— Eric Lohman

starlings—
the space between earth
and leaf-fall

Sara Tropper

red maple
the sweetness
of letting go

Eric Lohman
Presence #59 Oct. 2017

earthworms
i breathe with my steps
between

Kati Mohr
Kingfisher #6 (October 2022)
“*Fractured by Cattails*” 2023 HSA Members' Anthology ed. Allyson Whipple

Season: Spring/Autumn (Germany, Europe)

blue period
the cover
breathing feebly

Kati Mohr

Seasonal depression is connected with the shortening of daylight mostly in Winter aka winter blues. — Kati Mohr

mud season again —
the crow's feet
a little deeper

Kelly Sargent
Modern Haiku, Issue 54.2, Summer 2023

migration
suddenly too old
for butterfly kisses

Kelly Sargent

wooded graveyard—
in what's left of a basket
new carnations

Richard Tice
Presence issue 20, July 2021

tumbleweed . . .
cows and road crew vehicles
face east

Richard Tice

slipping from its box
into the bright fresh morning
a chocolate turtle

Shelli Jankowski-Smith
Trash Panda #5, summer 2023

walking the baby
his small head on my shoulder
snow moon in the dark

Shelli Jankowski-Smith

long-grass moon
grandmother's dilly bag
fills with lily pods

Marietta McGregor

An (Cottage) Prize, Genjuan International Haibun Contest 2018.
One eminent judge, Professor Stephen Henry Gill, commented:
“McGregor’s haiku . . . dare to invent new season words —
mud scale and *long-grass moon*, for example. “

“long-grass moon” refers to the time of Dry Season in far Northern Australia, when the kunai which burgeoned with the rains has dried off and slows movement of locals and game. Indigenous people control-burn the tall grass, to allow free passage. The moon in these months is coloured reddish-ochre with smoke. — Marietta McGregor

bluebottle lace
along high tide marks
kids a’popping jellies

Marietta McGregor

“bluebottle lace” is a seasonal feature of Australia’s easterly ocean beaches. Strong onshore winds cast ashore millions of Portuguese Man-of-War with their trailing polyps. The airy floats quickly desiccate in the sun, but stay inflated. Big and little kids alike enjoy jumping on them, with or without thong sandals!” — Marietta McGregor

first day of college
the ride home feels longer
without her

Wendy Toth-Notarnicola
Femku Magazine, May 2020

wildfire season
nothing is visible
but a fast food sign

Wendy Toth-Notarnicola

2023 was the “summer of smoke”,” with smoke from raging Canadian wildfires causing poor visibility, pollution, and breathing problems across the United States up to 2000 or so miles away. — Wendy Toth-Notarnicola

spring shower --
a snail climbs
on the drainpipe

Joan Fingon
Leaf Journal (June issue 1, 2023)

by the walkway
drenched in foxgloves
snails hide

Joan Fingon

summer's end
leaving sandcastles
for the moon

Carol Raisfeld
Autumn Moon Haiku Journal Spring Summer 2020 Issue 3:2

moonlit night
a juniper windbreak
bent with snow

Carol Raisfeld

daffodils' foliage
becoming part of the tall grass...
spring deepens

Maya Daneva
Spring 2023 issue of *Wales Haiku Journal*

early budding tree...
someone had hung on it
a saint's icon

Maya Daneva

cut grass
a cucumber day
in the garden

Meg Arnot
Akitsu Quarterly, Summer 2021

morning after
in the thaw
a carrot falls to the ground

Meg Arnot

summer weekend
pigeons walk to and fro
in the hospital corridor

Engin Gülez

This poem was inspired by actual events and by a particular corridor (when I was staying with my ill grandmother in hospital during a summer weekend).– Engin Gülez

Bromeliads
pelted by hail
the homeless

Johnnie Johnson Hafernik

nettle stew
we talk of renewing
our vows

Susan Yavaniski

I don't believe I've seen any reference to stinging nettle as a kigo. It comes up and is gathered for food and medicine in the cold of early spring- one of the first edible green's available, it's supernutritious, renewing & fortifying after a winter without fresh vegetables, and considered medicinal. It is generally foraged in the wild. And it stings to gather it, (cooking neutralizes the sting) but folk medicine considers the sting itself beneficial to ward off rheumatism/ arthritis, and there is a long tradition in different cultures of self-flagellating with branches of it for health. — Susan Yavaniski

deep winter sky
a spoonful of stardust
in my coffee

Edward Huddleston
Frogpond 44:2

wild strawberries
the sunset lingers
on our lips

Edward Huddleston

dense fog
i am the lone proof
of my absence

Vijay Prasad

articulating
the butterfly
the baby's hands

Shawn Blair
Frogpond 46:3, Autumn 2023

Black Angus
ambling out of a woodlot
the evening sun

Shawn Blair

In "Black Angus", the Summer "kigo" is the haiku taken as a whole. No one part of the haiku on its own says "summer". Note that Black Angus can be understood as either plural or singular, just as "haiku" can be either. — Shawn Blair

An old bookmark
out of pressed flowers
scent of cherry blossom

Apsara Perera
Sri Lankan haiku conducted by Haiku Association of Sri Lanka

sweet nothings
the trumpet tree blossoms spill
on the couple

Amoolya Kamalnath

Trumpet trees (Tabebuia) bloom during January and February in India, the Spring season in India. — Amoolya Kamalnath

leaf litter
moving in the night
mole crickets

C.X. Turner

This unpublished haiku is intended to have an autumnal seasonal reference with "leaf litter". Mole crickets are strange insects that look like a cross between a mole, a lobster, and a cricket with powerful front legs for digging and wings for flying.— C.X. Turner

spring morning
a bumblebee's
scattered flight

Padma Rajeswari

old well
even the heavens tremor
at the touch of a petal

Simon Hanson
Kokako #28, 2018

returning swallows
new life
for our empty nest

Simon Hanson

Living in Tasmania, returning swallows coincides with the beginning of spring... yes timely in a good way, tis the metaphorical empty nest here at home with the adult kids grown up, the returning swallows of the bird kind are actual for us, nesting on our veranda each spring and summer and this little poem may be meaningful, i hope for my lovely wife Kylin, it certainly is for me. — Simon Hanson

with my hose
i am spring rain
pine sapling

Bruce Feingold
Mariposa 2022 #46 spring-summer

dry meadow
before the rains
bird less

Bruce Feingold

In the unpublished haiku 'dry meadow' I am referring to California's autumn coastal meadows before the rains turn them green and bring back birds like the meadowlarks and white crown sparrows. — Bruce Feingold

spring sea
an otter backstrokes
close to shore

Dana Grover
GEPPPO - Spring 2024

Spring sea is a season word/kigo

Along the coast of California sea otters abound. Once nearly extinct because of hunting for their thick fur, the otters have made a remarkable recovery. They can be found a little offshore, diving to get anemones or clams, the latter of which they crack open against a stone they place on their chests while backstroking or resting on their backs in the water.
–Dana Grover

dusk
overhead a vee of geese
wings home

Dana Grover

Goose/geese are autumnal season words

Backstory— *several geese hang out all day in St James Park a couple of blocks from my house. In the evening they often fly overhead and I see (and hear) them if I'm in the backyard.* –Dana Grover

symphony wind
it rushes through
scarlet leaves

Martha Wallace

There are many maple trees near my apartment. Some turn a glorious orangish, then red, and sometimes both colors in one leaf or tree in Autumn. — Martha Wallace

storm clouds
what a father says
with silence

Rich Schilling
The Heron's Nest March 2022

spring break
the blur of a butterfly
hitting the windshield

Rich Schilling

marriage ties...
blossoms break free
in the breeze

Bee Jay
Presence 72, March 2022

waterfall
trembling
legs

Bee Jay

blossoms = Spring
waterfall = Summer

slow drip from
sodden branches—
blackbird's chatter

Guy Stephenson
Haibun Today, December 2017 vol 1 no. 4

Blackbirds feeding on Haw berries in an ancient cashel near where I live.
— Guy Stephenson

Ireland's only reptile
zootoca viviparous—
oh, saint patrick!

Guy Stephenson

The lizard is only ever seen in Summer.
— Guy Stephenson

Armenian plum
another dialect
in the orchard

Lorraine A Padden

Thank you for inviting diverse interpretations of kigo that compel us to expand the canon. As the natural and human world continues to shift around us these signifiers should also morph as they show up in our haiku and related forms... — Lorraine A Padden

against the current
she teaches her daughter
about salmon

Lorraine A Padden
tsuri-dōrō #13 Jan/Feb 2023

fighting
with empty guns
heavy snow

Myron Lysenko
Modern Haiku Issue 55.1

skeletons
of bombed houses
bare birches

Myron Lysenko

goldfinches
summer sun lights
the silver birches

Alison Breewood
Blōō Outlier Journal issue #3 (Summer 2022) ed. Alan Summers

waterside
the umbers and ochres
of winter willows

Alison Breewood

moth tapping
against the ceiling light
morning mist

John Hudak
posted on X (formerly twitter)

easter
he talks about his time
in rehab

Gregory Longenecker
H. Gene Murtha Senryu Contest, 2023

returning from
the graveyard
autumn voices

Gregory Longenecker

night frost
the unopened bell
of a snowdrop

Erica Ison
tsuri-dōrō issue 15 (May/June 2023)

record temperature
stopping up
the bird bath

Erica Ison

spring warmth
feral cats leave the storm drain
one by one

Alison Woolpert
Modern Haiku 49.2

immigrant
or emigrant or both?
snowshoe rabbit

Alison Woolpert

when there are
no words left to say
autumn leaves

Lori Kiefer

mid winter—
the virtue signaling
of plum blossom

Adele Evershed
Wales Haiku Journal-Winter 22 edition

distant thunder
a scarecrow takes a bow
after the claps

Adele Evershed

red autumn leaves
which shade
she-devil-may-care

Marcie Wessels

Notes:

momiji = red autumn leaves

From Remastered.

In response to:

kono ki noboraba kijo to naru beshi yumomiji
Takajo Mitsuhasi

climb this tree and you'll be a she-devil red leaves in the sunset glow
(trans. Ueda)

early blackbirds
giving the garden colour
still without snow

Michael Lindenhofer
Songbirds Online annual anthology 2022

the hour of Pan
out of the blue a crow
space black

Michael Lindenhofer

first crocus
the baby says
umbrella

Meredith Ackroyd
Modern Haiku 54.1, Winter–Spring 2023

the visible arc
of this body of light
autumn leaves

Meredith Ackroyd

old memories—
a bellflower folds
around a bee

CaroleMacRury
3rd Place, Peggy Willis Lyles Contest, 2016

fickle fall—
we take a tour
of leafless trees

Carole MacRury

Fickle fall suggests the difficulty of timing tours of fall foliage these days. The height of fall colors can evaporate overnight due to unexpected weather conditions. This haiku was prompted by my disappointment in missing the Rocky Mountain Park spectacular foliage display by a day.— Carole MacRury

stinging nettles
reaching for the blackberry
with sky

Ella Aboutboul
Haiku Girl Summer [30th August 2023]

double glazing
I count twelve flies
off season

Ella Aboutboul

mackerel clouds
the way you dot my neck
with kisses

Surashree Joshi
The Haiku Foundation's Haiku Dialogue, 11 August, 2021

the hijr
that I know not—
autumn twilight

Surashree Joshi

Hijr is a Urdu word that means separation, parting, absence of the beloved, separation from beloved— Surashree Joshi

quiet rain
slowly letting go
of this sultry night

Adelaide B. Shaw
Frogpond Summer 2011

heavy snow melt
the changing decibels
of the stream

Adelaide B. Shaw

grandmother
loses parts of herself...
autumn deepens

Srini
Mainichi, 24 September 202

The following piece makes a reference to the partial loss of memory my grandmother suffered from in the days leading to her death. Incidentally, it was mid-autumn at the time. — Srini

the mountain
bathed in light . . .
summer mizzle

Srini

I finally let go
of my grief --
cherry blossom wind

Mona Bedi

autumn breeze
the changing tune
of windbells

Mona Bedi
The Cicada's Cry Autumn 2023 Edition

a carved pumpkin's
forced grin . . .
election year

Anna Cates
Failed Haiku 67 (July 2021) p. 141

when I go
I take nothing with me
withered strawflower

Anna Cates

all these typos—
my breath on your skin
hunter's moon

Isabella Kramer
Asahi Haikuist Network by David McMurray 8. April 2023

winter sky
ten crows breaking
the rule of thirds

Isabella Kramer

the slow draw
of a cello bow
winter drift

Steve Bahr
Poetry Pea Journal 1:23

from new leaves
a story unfolds
children's garden

Steve Bahr

canyonlands
a meadowlark sings
me out of myself

Debbie Strange
1st Place, Drifting Sands Monuments #1 Contest, 2022

points of light
beneath the snow . . .
kinnikinnick

Debbie Strange

*kinnikinnick = common bearberry - berries stay on the plant through winter
(unless the birds and bears eat them all!) – Debbie Strange*

spring silence –
the nest waiting
for swallows

Mariangela Canzi
Presence, Issue #76, July 2023

burning summer –
into the fountain
sparrows dive

Mariangela Canzi

after the fury
a koala clings
to an unburnt branch

Tracy Davidson
Echidna Tracks, Issue 11: Elements, 10 October 2023

armistice
a poppy leaf lands
in my teacup

Tracy Davidson

border attack . . .
lupine seed heads
pop in the heat

Marion Clarke
tinywords, Issue 17.1, 3 July 2017

*In 'border attack', I used lupine seed heads as a **late Summer kigo**, as that's when the seed pods in my raised border started popping in the sun to disperse their seeds, here in the north of Ireland. At the time I thought **lupine** was a typo but discovered it is US English for the lupin, but I liked the nod to the wolf!* – Marion Clarke

leaf pile
the red surprise
of a ripe tomato

Marion Clarke

I have used 'leaf pile' as an autumn kigo. I was clearing the fallen leaves from our patio and discovered one last tomato still ripening in early November!
– Marion Clarke

black night:
owl questions
under my skin

Edward Rielly
Originally printed by High/Coo (aka Brooks Books) and then reprinted as
Answers Instead: A Life in Haiku (Farmington, ME: Encircle Publications, 2015)

after rain
granddaughter helps a worm
inch off the driveway

Edward Rielly

spring seedlings
all the courage
I don't have

John Pappas
Half Day Moon Journal, issue no. 1, August 2023

snowdrops
the first words always
the hardest

John Pappas

Snowdrops are the first flowers that bloom after a long cold winter.

— John Pappas

yearning...
magnolias in full bloom
since we parted

Deborah Karl-Brandt
Cold Moon Journal March 2023

magnolia buds
every petal worshipped
by the rain

Deborah Karl-Brandt

just as
the snowdrops wither
cherry blossom

Stella Pierides
part of the haibun "Parkinson's Play"
Frogpond 44:2, 2021

snowdrops...
breaking through
this sadness

Stella Pierides

wind season
the old banyan sinks
another root

Matthew Caretti
The Heron's Nest vol. XXV, Number 3 (September 2023)

humpbacks breach
again this season
of rainbows

Matthew Caretti
The seasons here in the South Pacific are, of course, quite different than those represented by traditional kigo. — Matthew Caretti

golden wattle...
almost a gallop
in the dog's stride

Madhuri Pillai
Hedgerow #135 ed. Caroline Skanne

*Wattle flowers in **early Spring**, and the dog friendly park near my house is ablaze in gold, it is a sight to behold, my favourite time of the year. And the dog in this haiku passed away in January of this year when I was away in India, I think the family will never recover from this loss. A month ago, I got another rescue from the RSPCA, a brindle mastiff called Rosie, she is delightful, the brindle makes her look a little like Anya.* — Madhuri Pillai

Black Friday Sales –
the new dog and I
smell the breeze

Madhuri Pillai

Black Friday sales in Melbourne are usually on the last Friday of November, which is the last month of Spring. With the weather slowly heating up, Summer is well and truly on its way, and one can expect bushfires and restrictions on water usage. Parks can resound with the joyful voices of picnicking revellers and playful barking dogs. Summer in all its glory. – Madhuri Pillai

indian summer
the little creek running
out of sound

Bryan Rickert
Acorn 44 (Spring 2020)

pastureland
a lone hawk circles
the dawn

Bryan Rickert

*indian summer- (kaharubi) **early winter***
*lone hawk or hawk- (taka) **autumn***

These are as indicated by the *World Kigo Database* ed. Dr Gabi Greve
– Bryan Rickert

koi mouth the calm sheen
a spring pond fruiting algae
whispering a truth

JL Huffman
Asahi Haikuist Network 3/19/21

xanthous petals
pollen-laden
workers abuzz

JL Huffman

In my first (previously published) haiku, I actually noted the season "Spring" but then use the kigo of fruiting algae; in my new unpublished haiku I allude to Summer with the kigo of pollen-laden flowers and busy bees. –JL Huffman

harvest moon
the pull of the covers
across the bed

Debbie Olson
Modern Haiku, 50:3, Autumn 2019

not alone
on this worn path
crickets

Debbie Olson

ice fishing
feeling the pulse
of a river

Bona M. Santos
THF Haiku Dialogue 2/9/22

autumn loneliness
I discover my threshold
to heartbreak

Bona M. Santos

the shamisen player
clears her throat
autumn's voice

Beverly Acuff Momoi
NOON: journal of the short poem, Issue #23

month of no gods
I keep the persimmon
for myself

Beverly Acuff Momoi

monsoon clouds
a generosity
that i envy

Rupa Anand
Haiku in Action Week: 70 ed. Susan Burch
Prompt: Monsoon
Published: 9/8/23

smog
ascending
a hornbill's toot

Rupa Anand

"Smog is something I face in Delhi (the city I live in) coinciding with the winter months. It is a combination of fog + smoke arising primarily from crop burning, vehicular exhaust and factory emissions. It severely impacts the quality of life of not only humans but also animals, birds and trees. There are days when it's very severe . . . and days when it lifts. Yet the hornbills (as other birds) continue to call and toot." – Rupa Anand

the grape scent
of mountain laurel . . .
almost home

Claire Vogel Camargo
Stardust Haiku, March 2019 issue ed. Valentina Ranaldi-Adams

dashing to my car
the windshield
covered by catkins

Claire Vogel Camargo

Spring beginnings alluded to in both haiku
– Claire Vogel Camargo

searching the sky
for patches of blue
migrating cranes

kjmunro
Autumn Moon Haiku Journal 5:2, 2022 ed. Bruce Ross

orchard shade
the taste of
a wing & a prayer

kjmunro

moonshine
deeper shadows
this harvest

susan spooner
Autumn Moon 2:1 Dec. 2018

Gyrfalcon
blazing across the firebreak —
the embers

susan spooner

raking leaves
all the words
never used

Ron Scully
Third Place, The Robert Spiess Memorial Award, judge Gary Hotham
Modern Haiku vol.54.3 Autumn 2023

my first haiku
every time
a snowflake

Ron Scully

her soft voice
in a sacred space ...
autumn mist

Janice Doppler
Porad Haiku Award: Second Place 2022

summer sky...
near the dragon's mouth
a drifting hawk

Janice Doppler

Each spring new blossoms
while you remain
irreplaceable

Sylvia Forges-Ryan
(New England Letters)

Writing poems—
winter dreams itself
into spring

Sylvia Forges-Ryan

Milky Way
a communal reading
of the *Odyssey*

Patricia J. Machmiller
Haiku International, No. 123, 2021, p32

Milky Way—traditionally an autumn kigo
— Patricia J. Machmiller

spring moon
the albedo
of second love

Patricia J. Machmiller

*A spring moon usually has a softer light due to moisture
in the air that makes it appear a bit hazy.* — Patricia J. Machmiller

EXTRACT:

Wild Violets, Yuki Teikei Haiku Society Members' Anthology 2011
ed. Jerry Ball and J. Zimmerman ISBN 978-0-9745404-9-8.

YTHS: www.youngleaves.org

Review by Alan Summers (July, 2015)

I would like to state that this is a most beautifully put together book by a great team...
[still available here: <https://yths.org/publications/>]

So many haiku to choose from, but here are a handful:

his oxygen tube
stretches the length of the house
winter seclusion

Deborah P. Kolodji

spider silk
it too has come to ruin
under the cherry tree

Michael McClintock

The anthology's title is from a haiku by Patricia J. Machmiller:

the little child
wanting only to be held—
wild violets

For anyone not familiar with Patricia J. Machmiller:

<https://yths.org/poets-personal-pages/patricia-machmiller/>

Machmiller approaches the subject in an intelligent open manner, giving a clean clear introduction about kigo for those new or even familiar with haiku.

She explains that kigo [plural and singular spelling] are devices used in haiku and renga and are symbolic of a season, and hold the power of allusion to literary, religious, and historical references. This simple statement holds a key, if not the key, to the ongoing debate whether non-Japanese writers can be allowed to use the kigo device.

Is kigo really the Japanese people's collective consciousness, and so all non-Japanese people must be excluded? Or the secured preserve of a few?

We know that hokku and haiku began to be readily available under two American actions, the mid 19th Century arrival of US black ships brokering an end to isolation for Japan and opening up of world trade; and the 1945-1952 Occupation of Japan after WWII.

Japanese artists welcomed these actions and embraced Western art, which influenced haiku poetry, and of course the West were introduced to Japanese art including poetry.

The West is a larger group of poets than ever before, and joined by those in other nations, who look to Japan's haiku as one kind of inspiration or another. The one great strength of Japanese haikai tradition is to share, and the non-Japanese nations also share by reading each other's work unless there is censorship imposed on them.

I agree with Machmiller when she says:

"...I do not believe that the Japanese have a lock on kigo..."

Machmiller states how certain words and phrases in Western culture already operate as kigo. I don't intend to quote or reveal any more of Machmiller's essay, as I want the anthology (in its entirety) to be part of many a haiku poet's reference library.

This was reviewed by Alan Summers in:

Notes from the Gean Vol. 3, Issue 3 December 2011

Colin Stewart Jones (Managing Editor)

Lynx: A Journal for Linking Poets XXVII:1 February, 2012

ed. Jane & Werner Reichhold

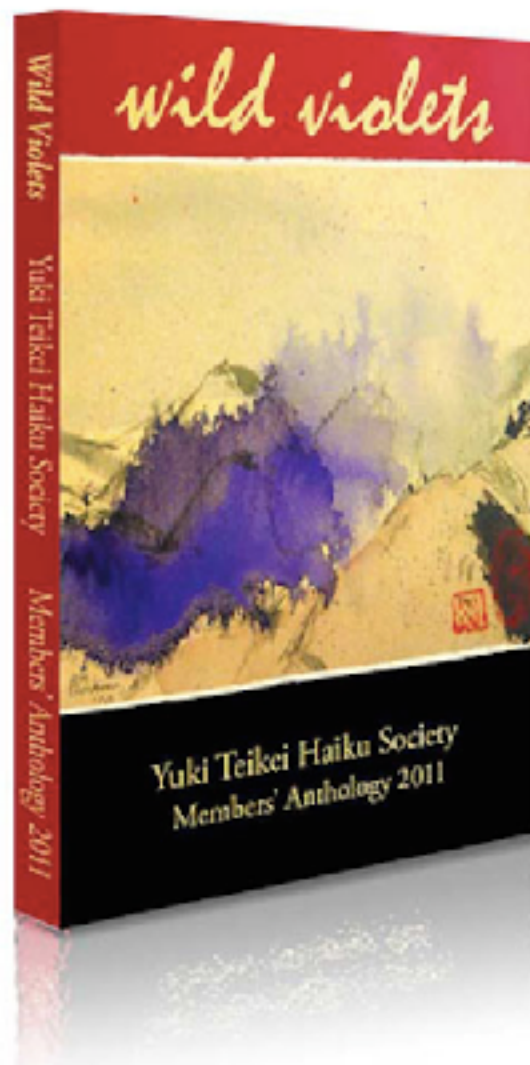
AWARD WINNING ANTHOLOGY

Wild Violets received Haiku Society of America's Kanterman Prize Honorable Mention for Best Anthology 2012

The judges, Carolyn Hall and Christopher Patchel:

"This very attractive book (made so by a beautiful cover and foldout Chinese brush paintings by Ann Bendixen) includes two poems by each of 57 member poets, as well as haibun and informative essays by well-known haijin."

<https://area17.blogspot.com/2015/07/book-review-by-alan-summers-wild.html>



in pine shade
for a while I forget
this life will end

Robert Epstein
moonset, 6:1, 2019

space heater —
I ride the wave
to a sunny isle

Robert Epstein

between
predicted thunderstorms
chance of silence

Roberta Beach Jacobson
Akitsu Quarterly (Winter 2022)

winter
sole green spot
my tea

Roberta Beach Jacobson

twilight
the hermit thrush
now a song

MJ Mello
Heron's Nest, vol.xxiii, no. 4, Dec. 2021

rereading Henry
the wood thrush
in dog-eared pages

MJ Mello

"rereading Henry" is about Henry Thoreau.
— MJ Mello

two hundred phrases
in the thrush's song
the pull of fragments

Florence Heyhoe
seashores issue 11 (July 2023)

a new poppy
cupping a bumble bee
breakfast manna

Florence Heyhoe

consider the koi
drifting through its reflection
rust of the maple

Alison Rogers
Cold Moon Journal (6 October 2023)

afternoon tea –
jacaranda petals
emerge across town

Alison Rogers

The blossoming of jacarandas in Queensland in October/November is celebrated in a similar vein to cherry blossoms emerging in Japan.

'Afternoon tea' references the much-loved painting by R. Godfrey Rivers in the Queensland Art Gallery's collection which features the artist and his wife enjoying afternoon tea beneath Brisbane's first jacaranda tree in full bloom. – Alison Rogers

Link:

Jacaranda petals also appear beneath the painting in the gallery in Spring.
<https://blog.qagoma.qld.gov.au/godfrey-rivers-under-the-jacaranda-a-quintessential-image-of-brisbane-queensland/>

autumn moon
the scent of candle
heavy in the air

Lorelyn De la Cruz Arevalo
Under the Bashō (November 21, 2022)

full moon
silver in her bosom
plucked at midday

Lorelyn De la Cruz Arevalo

winter solstice
celebrating sunshine
in capsule form

Bonnie J Scherer
Failed Haiku vol 8, Issue 87 (March 2023)

rainy day
the bend of bleeding hearts
in grandma's garden

Bonnie J Scherer

the lime tree
planted before she left
in full bloom

Rob McKinnon
Frogpond 46:3 Autumn 2023

cicada shell
warm night turning cool
with summer's last beer

Rob McKinnon

closing time
the sun settles
into crickets

Marilyn Ashbaugh
2023 Yuki Teikei Asilomar kukai winner

Day of the Dead
sparrows gather
beneath the hearse

Marilyn Ashbaugh

shining wind
i remove the collar
from my cat

Keiko Izawa
hedgerow #142, 2023 ed. Caroline Skanne

Kigo: shining wind 風光る *kaze hikaru*
— Keiko Izawa

blossom chill
the hanami group's
small circle

Keiko Izawa

Kigo: blossom chill 花冷え *hanabie*

Some hanami groups form a circle to enjoy the conversation, but in this ku I allude to the chill which makes them even closer to each other. I'm not sure how to express it effectively... — Keiko Izawa

harvest moon
over charcoal fields
sounds from the spinney

Herb Tate
Scarlet Dragonfly (Feb 17 2023)

egg hunt
round and round the garden
tickle grass

Herb Tate

'harvest moon'

As the climate changes the harvest - where I am - tends to have already been collected by the time of the harvest moon in September; with the fields no longer resounding with the noise of tractors it is suddenly possible to hear other things instead... — Herb Tate

dog days
the cone of concern
widens

Michael Henry Lee
Prune Juice #17 March 2019

icy winter winds
the cacophony of
an absent neighbor's chimes

Michael Henry Lee

tulip season . . .
row after row of
selfie-takers

Sue Courtney
a fine line – Journal of the New Zealand Poetry Society
Spring 2022 (published October 2022)

honey bee
to blushing hydrangea
shall we dance...

Pat McDermott
Nick Virgilio Writers House Poetry Volume 2 (2020)
Poems from the Pandemic Year

the cusp of monsoon
wild summer chrysanthemum
unfurls on her bun

Monica Kakkar

Contest Winner, Basho's Haiku Journeys Haiku Quarterly (Summer 2023)

All Summer Kigo: summer chrysanthemum natsu no kiku, natsugiku 夏菊

crimson craquelure
of autumn melancholy
Kashmir honeymoon

Monica Kakkar

craquelure: a network of fine cracks in the paint or varnish of a painting.

Late Autumn Kigo: autumn melancholy aki sabu 秋寂ぶ (あきさぶ)

*Sabu, also means "getting rusty," autumn is rusting. It also hints at the color of the autumn leaves.

[Source: World Kigo Database, Dr. Gabi Greve, Daruma Museum, Japan.]

a week of rain
my large breakfast window
and a day lily

Pat McDermott

*"We are blessed with a large garden property and many windows...
an inspiration for my haiku...nature takes its course even in the rain."*

— Pat McDermott

the crunch
of frost encrusted gravel
. . . Milky Way

Sue Courtney

away message . . .
chasing buttercups
up the coast

William O'Sullivan
Frogpond, Autumn 2022

votive light
midnight mass
without him

William O'Sullivan

rose bloom
mom cheers on
her other kids

Richard Matta
haikuNetra Issue 1.2, Oct. 9, 2023

weeping willow
this decision to bend
with the breeze

Richard Matta
weeping willow per YTHS associated with Spring season

seasonal fruit
we gather to pick
her burial clothes

Jenn Ryan-Jauregui
Cold Moon Journal (July 2023)

late summer
picking blueberries
from my teeth

Jenn Ryan-Jauregui

drifting snow
shattering the space
wren song

Clive Bennett

An earlier version to the one published by:

Wales Haiku Journal (Summer 2019)

—Clive Bennett

indian summer
the wild strawberry
in bloom again

Clive Bennett

The flower I came across when walking down a lane close to home here in North Wales - the Wild Strawberry. It caught me by surprise as it had both flowers and fruit ...

—Clive Bennett

Escher winds
the picnic basket empty
birds fly both ways

Marjorie Pezzoli

earlier version *Haiku Girl Summer*, Allison Whipple Substack 2023

Published 8.18.23

dance time
the whisper thin veil
no shoes needed

Marjorie Pezzoli

*November 1st is **Day of the Dead**, I think about dancing with Alyssa, my daughter once again.*

She earned her angel wings in January 2013. —Marjorie Pezzoli

tadpoles
among the lily pads
a gutted porcupine

Nancy Orr
Frogpond, 45:2, Spring/Summer 2022

telling time
cattails
above new snow

Nancy Orr

winter storm
the wind chime tangles
untangles

Vandana Parashar
THF Haiku Dialogue:
Finding Peace and Contemplation... in small things – wind bell with monkey
Guest Editor Marietta McGregor (24th Feb 2021)

following the breeze
through our garden gate
autumn leaves

Vandana Parashar

summer breeze
grandpa exchanges his stick
for a paper kite

Lakshmi Iyer
haikuNetra, Issue 1.1, Sep 2023
haikuRatna - Editor's Pick

hot flashes
mood swings up and down
reasons why i cry

Lakshmi Iyer

Though 'Hot flashes' are common symptoms of menopause for women and testosterone deficiency in men, they vary in seasons with Summer and Winter equinoxes. Hot flash triggers also include stress, wearing tight clothing, hot and humid, heatwave, alcohol, smoking, caffeine, sugary foods, spicy foods, too many layers of Winter clothing, palpitations leading to anger, night sweats, cribbing, crying etc. Yoga, swimming, and outdoor visits are the best remedies for such hot flashes. Mood swings are a part of hot flashes, hence it becomes a vicious circle. —Lakshmi Iyer

debate on happiness
a butterfly enters through
the main entrance

Pravat Kumar Padhy
Presence #75, 2023

new pond—
a frog leaps into whisper
of the breeze

Pravat Kumar Padhy

autumn winds
leaves swirl
geese too

Ray Caligiuri
weird laburnum, 2022

still winter
I own
ennui

Ray Caligiuri

beach plums—
the tide reveals a bone
that could be human

Aidan Castle
Presence 73, July 2022

salmon run—
the nurse slips off
his wedding band

Aidan Castle

zagging scars
across the countryside
the cyclone's path

Marilyn Humbert
Cattails Journal (April 2023)

first cicada chirrup
summons the swarming brothers
love song on a loop

Marilyn Humbert

carrying
sunshine in her arms
the flower vendor

Stephanie Zepherelli
First Prize, The Haiku Foundation Monthly Kukai (July 2023)

axis mundi
adorned with ribbons
the maypole

Stephanie Zepherelli

warm spring morning...
I release a damselfly
from a spider web

Ed Bremson
Honorable mention, 2023 Hexapod Haiku Challenge 2023
Hexapod Haiku Challenge Announcement — The Frost Entomological Museum
— Department of Entomology (psu.edu)

dozing while dreams
pull me away from this world
of winter grass...

Ed Bremson

starry night
the mountain village becomes
crickets' song

Nadejda Kostadinova
To Live Here - a Haiku Anthology by the Wee Sparrow Press

sunny chrysanthemums
the brightness
of our new home

Nadejda Kostadinova

Chandigarh –
stepping from the train
Into the oven

Sue Lewis
British Haiku Society 2016 Members' Anthology *Beginnings*

after rain
the wet chrysanthemums:
this autumn sky

Sue Lewis

snowy alleyway
a cat drinks
out of a footstep

Tomislav Sjekloća
seashores vol. 10, April 2023

long afternoon
a fly in a cobweb
gives in

Tomislav Sjekloća

mirrored sunset
swallows skimming
on the river surface

Daniela Misso
Blithe Spirit, Vol. 33 No.2, May 2023

moorings
the spring wind pushes
fluffy clouds

Daniela Misso

new prescription
the foliage falls
into focus

Christopher Peys
Akitsu Quarterly, Fall 2022

naught but dried leaves
on a concrete path
autumn breeze

Christopher Peys

cottage garden
bees and butterflies
easy neighbours

Joanna Ashwell
Presence Issue 76

finding my way
through the streets
drift by drift

Joanna Ashwell

Salisbury solstice
a druid in
the Costa queue

Nick T
Blithe Spirit Vol 33 No 3 (August 2023)

wildflower meadow
my daily dose
of beeing

Nick T

cherry blossom
my baby girl flirts
with her toes

Christine Eales
The Heron's Nest Volume XXI Number 1 March 2019

anniversary
virgin kisses
spring to life

Christine Eales

"I love it when I write a haiku and I am so busy inside it that I don't notice I have used a season word until I come out."

–Christine Eales

summer dawn
grandma shakes
the pickle jar

Hifsa Ashraf
haikuNetra, issue 1.1, 2023

damsel fly wings
in my palm
river delta

Hifsa Ashraf

mango blossom...
what if every day was
a red-letter day

Shloka Shankar
Third Place
Second Annual Maya Lyubenova Haiku Contest

golden air...
the metrics of colour
leaf by leaf

Shloka Shankar

*"mango blossom" is an early spring kigo (February in India)
"golden air" stemmed as a kigo for autumn, particularly the month of
November. — Shloka Shankar*

sudden flapping
a field of wildflowers
erupts from rest

Scott Wiggerman
Better than Starbucks, 2019

snow fort
the shelter
of small spaces

Scott Wiggerman

spring shower
tin roof taps
for-get-me-not

Kenneth Mory
Failed Haiku Issue 86

summer echo
 firefly
 firefly

Kenneth Mory

summer rain
dancing barefoot
on the tiles

Tony Williams
Kingfisher #6, Oct '22

autumn afternoon
the toffee in my pocket
soft and sticky

Tony Williams

firefly's cage
the room where mother
discusses marriage

Richa Sharma
seashores, an international journal to share the spirit of haiku,
Issue 11, November 2023

candlelight . . .
my chosen one chooses
her jackfruit pickle

Richa Sharma

October mountain
in our cockpit we glide past
as tiny as flies

Lynn Morrell
Clark Strand's Weekly Haiku Challenge Oct 2, 2024

grateful to chemo
I kick dead leaves into spring
walk without a cane

Lynn Morrell

down with the flu—
in my water glass
a rainbow

Ruth Holzer
Scarlet Dragonfly Journal, Jan. 7, 2023

first call
of the pheasant—
empty fields

Ruth Holzer

wonderland
all in the eye
of the snowy owl

Margaret Tau
Ekphrasti-ku... Nunavut, Our Land with Guest Editor Pippa Phillips
The Haiku Foundation, Haiku Dialogue, February 2022

snow at dawn...
pulling the covers up
for one more dream

Margaret Tau

legal team's
yes no maybe
cottonwood fluff

Alanna C. Burke
Modern Haiku, Volume 46:2, Summer 2015

even cicadas
call it quits
siesta

Alanna C. Burke

the easy-picking ones
already gone . . .
summer dusk

Lesley Anne Swanson
Honourable Mention, Small Wonders Haiku Contest 2023

bloodroot in bloom
no one else shares
these chromosomes

Lesley Anne Swanson

warm summer day
my mother's hands
shelling peas

Joseph P. Wechselberger
haikuNetra Journal, Issue 1.2, October 2023

fogbow
a white butterfly circling
a patch of wild asters

Joseph P. Wechselberger

A fogbow is a phenomenon similar to a rainbow, produced by sunlight shining on fog. While it can occur in any season, in this poem it is early autumn, when the asters are in bloom.

–Joseph P. Wechselberger

every gust
a shower of red leaves
every gust

Meera Rehm
Songbirds Online Anthology 2022

memories
of a departed . . .
lavender potpourri

Meera Rehm

wild strawberries—
may you always remain
untamed

Lafcadio

Wild strawberries bloom in late Spring so could be a kigo for that season. Strawberries are a kigo for early Summer. I wanted to refer to the wild ones only.– Lafcadio

reading glasses
on the window sill—
lingering snow

Lafcadio

Haiku Dialogue – Finding peace and contemplation... in hidden corners – Photo Four
Guest Editor Marietta McGregor (March 31, 2021)

New to Haiku: The Haiku Mixer (Haiku Foundation, October 23, 2022)
ed. Julie Bloss Kelsey

kaleidoscope
the clink of autumn colors
settling in place

an'ya
autumn moon 2020

pink playground
the children make cherry
blossom angels

an'ya

memory care
the ice cream truck
sounds—

Kimberly Horning
Prune Juice Volume 40

Rumspringa
the hex signs
paint themselves

Kimberly Horning

"I grew up around the Amish"
–Kimberly Horning

peeling beets
the stains on my cold skin
the blood on our hands

Laurie Wilcox-Meyer

sea breezes salt
archipelago
naturally seasoned

James Penha

all the swans
gone from the pond...
firecracker season

Polona Oblak
Akitsu Quarterly, spring/summer 2023

re: firecracker season - the period between Xmas and new year when the use of pyrotechnic devices is not prohibited (in Slovenia at least)—Polona Oblak

out of eclipse
mallard drakes linger
in the shallows

Polona Oblak

RE: out of eclipse - most ducks moult during summer and mallard drakes in eclipse plumage look almost exactly like females. They get their breeding plumage back in early autumn. —Polona Oblak

lamb's ear
the leafy softness
of his inner bicep

Evelyn Atreya
Frogpond 45:3 Autumn 2022

evening breeze
Casablanca lilies
spill their fragrance

Evelyn Atreya

white-winged dove
a downy feather catches on my shirt. . .
i'm IT

Lorraine Pester
Outpost Special Profile Feature: Lorraine Pester
Blōō Outlier Journal
Issue 3 ed. Alan Summers (August 29, 2022)

prickly pear fruit-feast. . .
blocking apartment sidewalks
these javelina squadrons

Lorraine Pester

This is what you get if you live in an apartment complex built in a wildlife corridor in Tucson, Arizona in the Winter.

The javelina even climbed steps to the second story in their hunt for the juicy fruit. Residents can walk through the groups with little trouble. If you have a dog, it's best to skirt them. Dogs barking can make them charge and tusk a dog. Abbey Schnauzer happily only observed them. — Lorraine Pester

Javelina:

<https://www.nps.gov/orpi/learn/nature/javelina.htm#:~:text=Javelinas%20live%20and%20travel%20in,prevents%20them%20from%20being%20domesticated>

The kigo are based on the local Sonoran desert/southwestern USA key words.

I miss the desert. — Lorraine Pester

wolf moon night –
old skeletons break out
from cupboards

Natalia Kuznetsova

snowless snowman
wearing granny's nightie,
snow moon's grin

Natalia Kuznetsova
Asahi Haikuist Network, January 17, 2020

eyes awash
deepen... fields of
tobacco blue

Cameya Huffstead

*The hot sun causes squinting or deepening of the eyes, and the fields of tobacco are harvested during the hottest time of the year—**July/Aug.** There is a type of blue leaf tobacco, but another interpretation can be squinting at the tobacco fields against a deep blue sky.—Cameya Huffstead*

rasputitsa
dogs run around
a stalled tank

petro c. k.

***"rasputitsa"** is the Russian word for what is called the "mud season," a shoulder period in Eastern Europe when the ground, saturated either by melting snow in the spring or heavy rains in the fall, turns into thick sticky mud that makes travelling on unpaved roads problematic and even treacherous. It has been credited with miring and stalling military campaigns such as the ones advanced by Napoleon, and Hitler, into Russia, and it has played a critical role in the current Russian invasion of Ukraine.— petro c. k.*

snow on the bench
where i sat last June
painting with sweat

isabella mori
earlier version: Wordplay At Work, February 2021

pay rent
or buy groceries
the leaves keep falling

isabella mori

trick
or treat, the social
contract

Jerome Berglund

While the Age of Enlightenment associated with Rousseau, Kant and Locke might make one think of the Spring season, roots of ideas in Greece and Rome also are certainly not inconsistent with Fall topics, and the collapse of tyrannical autocracies, popular rejection and subversion of the unacceptable status quo and its imminent replacement by a preferable alternative mode of civilization...

For our friends across the pond the close proximity of All Hallows, to Guy Fawkes day, is also worth noting with great interest.

–Jerome Berglund

coming down wet
the snow doesn't stick
regime change

Jerome Berglund
Bottle Rockets #49 August 2023

cove moon
a slow mist
deepens the night

Erin Castaldi
Moonstone Press Haiku Day Anthology 2023

wisteria
wound the bottom up
rabbit brush

Erin Castaldi

broken fence
sunlight enters
on a fawn

Susan Mallernee
The Heron's Nest 2020

mercury rising
a single amaretto
joins mine

Susan Mallernee

wild indigos
poems on the same page
shine together

Lakshman Bulusu
Scarlet Dragonfly Journal, Issue 2 (May 2022)

a pink-painted sky
chases my blues away
irises dream

Lakshman Bulusu

Margaret Walker

deep in wildflowers

my feet

find his stone marker

deep in wildflowers

Margaret Walker

Haiku Dialogue: A Sense of Place: MEADOW/FIELD – touch (October 2018)

curated by kjmunro

"Margaret's haiku is full of touch, literally brimming, starting with the wonderful opening line, and feet finding a stone marker. Excellent haiku, full of haikuness, and touch, not just visual." – Alan Summers

red dress and tux
abandoned in the sand
we dance

Margaret Walker

Both haiku could span several seasons in a tropical (or perhaps, semi-tropical) climate, but for much of the world the seasons are likely more limited.– Margaret Walker

first daffodil
on St David's Day
leeks for lunch

Roger Noons
Blithe Spirit 33/2

salted grit
strikes the car door
Adele sings

Roger Noons

summer's end
flies crowd the dying
child's nostrils

Lev Hart
Blithe Spirit, Vol. 32, No. 3

storm warning
the crocuses bloom
four months late

Lev Hart

sundown
along the mountain range
shrivelled red apple

Mike Gallagher
Cold Moon: December 21

missing
corncrake calls
my youth

Mike Gallagher

drifting petals –
thinking of myself
in old age

Juliet Wilson
Scarlet Dragonfly issue 2 (May 2022)

blackbirdsong –
cherry trees burst
into bloom

Juliet Wilson

winter rain driving
a neighbor's calico cat
into our garage

Michael Feil
Wales Haiku Journal, 10/26/2018

frost comes upon us
no more singing cicadas
awaiting winter

Michael Feil

white ginger lily
the fragrance of a strong will
to survive

Hla Yin Mon
Honourable Mention,
The 76th Honourable Basho English Haiku Competition 2022

wabi-sabi kiss
the gentle touch of first frost
on late autumn leaves

Hla Yin Mon

hard frost...
in the armoured carrier
burning chip wrappers for warmth

Tim Roberts
Busted! Reflections on police life
(Red Moon Press 2023)

sunburnt refugee
he restrings a ukulele
with bin floss

Tim Roberts

setting sun
a crab skitters off
with the summer day

Barrie Levine
Stardust Haiku Journal Issue #77 – May 2023
ed. Valentina Ranaldi-Adams

the career
of the wolf spider
early autumn wind

Nicholas Klacsanzky
Modern Haiku, 54.1

her scent
all over the sand
wild roses

Barrie Levine

autumn morning . . .
the unfaded colour
of a butterfly corpse

Manoj Sharma
Akitsu Quarterly winter 2020

sakura —
the world outside
a shrine's window

Manoj Sharma

rainstorm
the many ways
a tree sings

Pris Campbell
haikuNetra Journal Issue 1.1 September, 2023

first cockcrow
my old love's face
fades away

Pris Campbell

first cockcrow (初鶏 *hatsutori*) *New Year*

— Pris Campbell

fresh mountain peppers
the only thing left
of my marriage

Nicholas Klacsanzky
Written about my first marriage.

the fragrance of pine
a childhood memory
of lost summers

Yvonne Wærn
published in *Leaf 1*

the first snow
children get happy
parents remember

Yvonne Wærn

"Pines smell wonderful in summer whether it is raining or the sun is shining. as to the first snow I mainly feel childish joy."—Yvonne Wærn

tinnitus . . .
the four seasons
of cicada

Peg Cherrin-Myers
Haiku Seed, February 2022 ed. Sankara Jayanth

flying into fall . . .
this abundance of kigo
still my kryptonite

Peg Cherrin-Myers

This senryu poet struggles with seasonal references! :)

—Peg Cherrin-Myers

*It doesn't show! Excellent use of kigo, and kigo, in your senryu.
As senryu break the perceived rules of haiku, they can mention
the seasons in their own way!*

—Alan Summers

crow moon
rose petals drop
onto the casket

Nancy Brady
Stardust Haiku #39 March 2020 ed. Valentina Ranaldi-Adams

winter solstice
the full moon
reflects his eyes

Nancy Brady

unstrung sitar
the summer river
pains me

Bipasha Majumder (De)
Under the Bashō journal 12.05.2023

hyacinth blossoms
I take a bath in the fragrance
of starfish

Bipasha Majumder (De)

vanishing
without a whisper
snowflakes

Eva Limbach
Failed Haiku Issue 37

neverending war
in the bare branches
a carrion crow

Eva Limbach

lotus flower
even the snow
has a scent

Anna Maria Domburg-Sancristoforo
Otata 38, February 2019 ed. John Martone

silent rain
the colour of leaves
torn from the sky

Anna Maria Domburg-Sancristoforo

summers end
the whistle of wind through
a bamboo flute

Marilyn Ward
Haiku Universe 6-9-19

yellow Kangiku
brumal night turns
a new moon

Marilyn Ward

*"Kangiku (Japanese chrysanthemum) flowering in December to January.
brumal (relating to winter)"* – Marilyn Ward

summer holidays –
flamboyant blossoms
line the streets

Tuyet Van Do
FreeXpresSion, March 2023, Volume XXX, Issue No. 3

early autumn
the dragon fruit firing up
on the trellis

Tuyet Van Do

Red / Purple Dragons

Did you know that this kind of pitaya is the rarest dragon fruit sort in the world? The flesh of the fruit is a unique sight and tastes slightly sweeter than white fleshed variants. — 28 Jun 2021

rice-planting
the old woman's song
tinged with sorrow

Neena Singh

The Heron's Nest Volume XXV, Number 3: September 2023

just the croaks
of knob-billed ducks...
a long night

Neena Singh

My unpublished haiku has an Autumn kigo— "long night" as in autumn, the days are shorter and the nights longer. — Neena Singh

autumn's fall
an old man and his dog
slip into mist

John Hawkhead

cattails journal, April 2023

thirteen-point stag
St Elmo's fire dances
between the antlers

John Hawkhead

The red deer rut begins in September and lasts until early November.

Mature adult males 'joust' in combat using their antlers for the right to mate with females.

In Kurt Vonnegut's Slaughterhouse-Five, Billy Pilgrim sees St Elmo's fire on soldiers' helmets—I have transferred this image to the stag's antlers, as its weaponised helmet, for creative colour in this previously unpublished haiku.— John Hawkhead

just you and me
awake all night
bullfrog

Alice Wanderer
The Neon City
a tiny book of my haiku published by Post Press in 2008

Bullfrog could be a Summer kigo.

— Alice Wanderer

harvest moon
ear on your heartbeat
I fall asleep

Alice Wanderer

Harvest moon is obviously Autumn.

— Alice Wanderer

not yet spring
the neighbour's ball still
in the garden

Robert Kingston
1st place, the British Haiku Society competition 2016

fright night...
she packs her compact
in her clutch bag

Robert Kingston
fright night, as in a reference to Halloween

summer's end
the bruised skin
of overripe peaches

Olivier Schopfer
Akitsu Quarterly, Summer 2016
Honourable Mention, Russian Haiku Competition 2019

autumn wind
a fly caught
in a spider's web

Olivier Schopfer

snowman ...
and yet the darkness
of his shadow

Ravi Kiran
Modern Haiku Issue 53.2

hoarfrost
those words we wish
we never said

Ravi Kiran

summer rain...
washed clothes
washed again

Chidambar Navalgund
Under the Bashō, 2022

saturation
and some more
paddy fields

Chidambar Navalgund

summer heat
overripe plums spill
into a bowl

Anne Curran
Shamrock haiku journal, June 2013

Pohutukawa tree –
children clamber
into its higher branches

Anne Curran

upon the snow field
tracks look for buried treasure
search for lost kigo

John Love
snow (雪 yuki)

another year ...
the scent of chrysanthemums
in father's absence

Chen-ou Liu
NeverEnding Story, September 29, 2023

deep winter
the shelter's entrance
darkens

Chen-ou Liu

almost lost
in the snowy woods
deer antlers

Eavonka Ettinger
Seashores Issue 10 p.19

willows bend
by the meadow pond
a newborn fawn

Eavonka Ettinger

cancer diagnosis—
the weight
of each snowflake

Corine Timmer
First Prize, International Section, 22nd Mainichi Haiku Contest (March 2019)

this heat . . .
a shiver runs up
the snowshoe hare's spine

Corine Timmer

one flower fallen;
the whole field diminished—
an unsettling sun

Stephen J. DeGuire
Asahi Haikuist Network 2006

all hallows eve...
orange and black monarch
migration

Stephen J. DeGuire

The first haiku was the first I'd ever written and submitted. It was inspired after reading numerous articles regarding the rise in the number of bullying cases and subsequent suicides in Japan. It's also the only haiku I've published that came close to 17 syllables.

— Stephen J. DeGuire

another snowstorm
rose hips rolling, and rolling
I'm teapot

Wai Mei Wong
Poetry Pea Journal, #1.23, July 2023

evening creek
towards the sky
the sizzling bass

Wai Mei Wong

another war
preparing the garden
for the first nightfrost

Marjolein Rotsteeg
Haiku Universe 28th October 2023

November storm
swirling leaves rake up
summer memories

Marjolein Rotsteeg

reaching through rubble
after the earthquake
wildflowers

Kimberly Kuchar
The Haiku Pond (Podcast)
3.05: A Tiny Speck of Dust, November 27, 2022

old cicada shell
his frailness
as I hug him

Kimberly Kuchar

spines of Spanish moss
the chilling wind
replaces leaves

Cyndie Henrichs

The sobering effect of a cold winter day on a tropical landscape.
— Cyndie Henrichs

bells sound
surrounding the church
herd of goats

Mircea Moldovan
Romanian Kukai, December 2021

quiet sky
I better look
at the anthill

Mircea Moldovan

morning fog...
rice paper prepped
for black ink

Christine Wenk-Harrison
Modern Haiku Vol. 54.1 Winter-Spring 2023

garden fiesta
bougainvillea cascades
from terracotta

Christine Wenk-Harrison

elf ears scattered on
the forest floor – listening
for winter's approach

William Winslow
112 Haiku by William Winslow
Palmetto Publishing, Charleston, SC (2023)

winter woodswalk
deer tracks stop
at the frozen creek

M F Drummy

crackling fire
the boy warms his frozen hands
on a brown chestnut

LaVaughn Davis

exuberant women
brilliant as the autumn
turning in the sun

Janice Lynch Schuster

the harvest moon's glow
creates a perfect backdrop
for today's Wiccan

Frank Hillyard

lilacs bloom in autumn—
resurrecting ghosts and
fading memories

Tohm Bakelas

Splinters of sunshine
piercing the morning silence . . .
icicles crumble

Keith Simmonds

Society of Classical Poets 2023 Haiku Competition
Among the 23 best haiku for 2023 in the prestigious competition.



last turn of the spade
the Pastor's voice, dragonflies
hesitate also

Sheila Barksdale
Kokako (New Zealand) Issue 36, 2022

High Altar: heaped-up
hopbines borne on a flatbed
impressing townsfolk

Sheila Barksdale

hop harvest is taken to kilns to be dried in early autumn

—Sheila Barksdale

rioting flames
witches dance in a cave—
strawberry moon

Ram Krishna Singh
Lothlorien Poetry Journal, Vol. 20, 2023

around the fire
fresh walnuts being offered —
her blackened fingers

Julie Constable

I had my friend Gina in mind because she collects chestnuts in the hills every year and I often go up and do a little picking. Her hands are incredible!
— Julie Constable

Note: Victoria (Australia) homegrown delicacies are seasonal and harvested between March to May: an Autumn harvest.

autumn web
holding a curled leaf
holding a spider

Julie Constable
Autumn Moon Haiku Journal 7:1, Autumn/Winter 2023-24

Mardi Gras
conifers wear beads
of ice

Valentina Ranaldi-Adams

Mardi Gras refers to events of the *Carnival celebration*, beginning on or after the Christian feasts of the Epiphany (Three Kings Day) and culminating on the day before Ash Wednesday, which is known as Shrove Tuesday:

Also called:	Fat Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Tuesday
Celebration period:	Before fasting season of Lent
	Lent (Latin: Quadragesima, 'Fortieth')
Winter 2023 date	21st February
Winter 2024 date	13th February
Frequency:	Annual

WIKIPEDIA

anticipation
of sakura promising
waka huia

for *Naima*

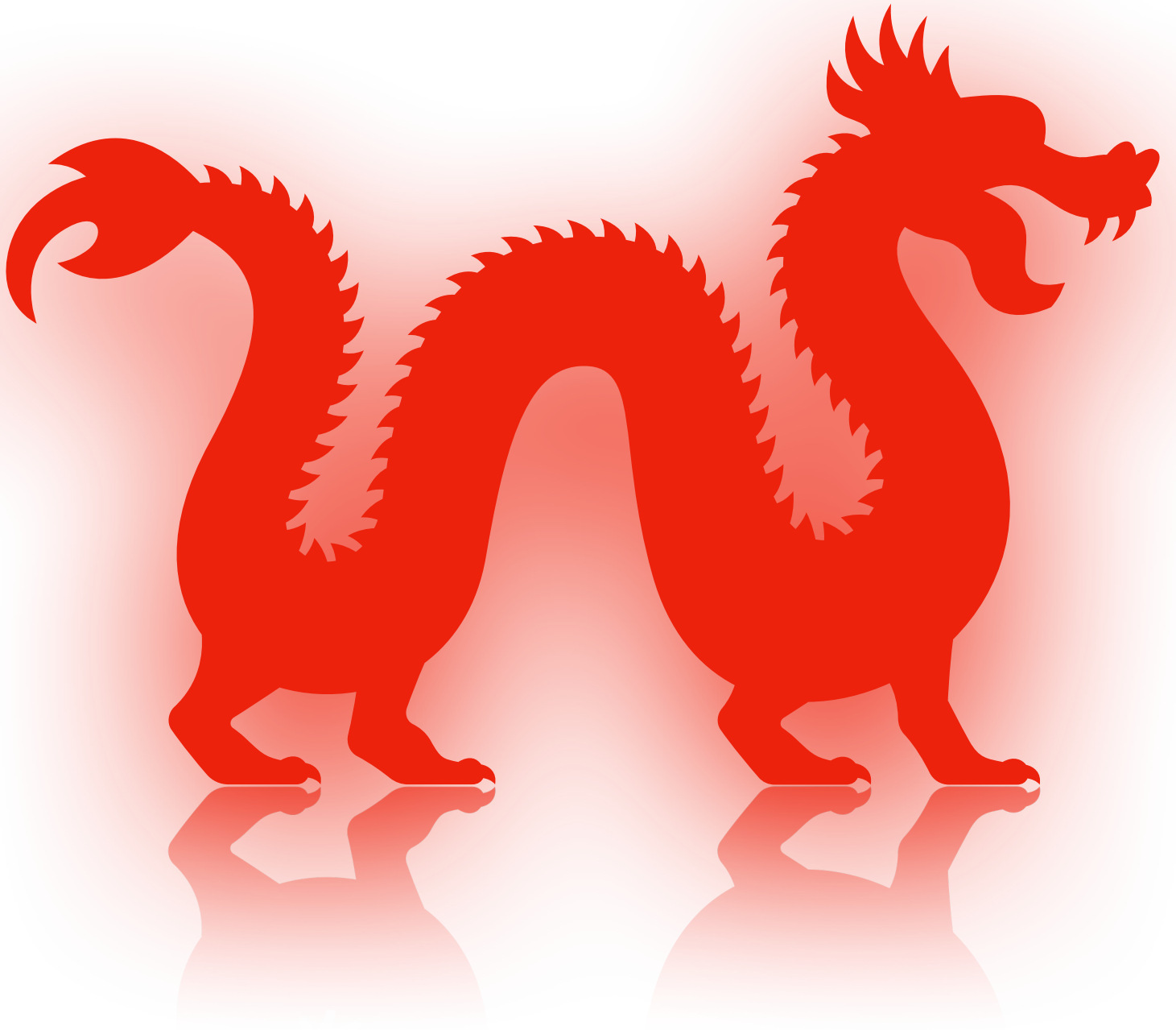
Cindy Zeiher

'Sakura' means 'cherry blossom' in Japanese
'Waka huia' means 'treasure box' in Te Reo Māori

'Waka' is also the word for a poetic 5-7-5-7-7 metre form in
Japanese and now we tend to write tanka more than waka.

The poem refers to the cherry blossom tree in my garden, Christchurch
New Zealand.

*I hold a fondness for sakura as it blooms in Spring and reminds me of
my treasured time living in Osaka, Japan.*— Cindy Zeiher



Touchstone Award Nominations

The Pan Haiku Review Issue 2 Winter 2023

Kigo Lab Special ed. Alan Summers

asparagus sprouts
unsold sofas
almost for free

Alan Peat

startled into flight
a beach leaves behind
snowy egrets

Jo Balistreri

Armenian plum
another dialect
in the orchard

Lorraine A Padden

wild strawberries—
may you always remain
untamed

Lafcadio

trick
or treat, the social
contract

Jerome Berglund

golden air...
the metrics of colour
leaf by leaf

Shloka Shankar

double glazing
I count twelve flies
off season

Ella Aboutboul

the hour of Pan
out of the blue a crow
space black

Michael Lindenhof

leaf litter
moving in the night
mole crickets

C.X. Turner

dozing while dreams
pull me away from this world
of winter grass...

Ed Bremson

The Pan Haiku Review Issue 2 Winter 2023
Kigo Lab Special ed. Alan Summers

The Blōo Outpost

The Blōo Outpost Report

Thank you all for being brilliant and stepping up to the kigo challenge!

*About forthcoming **PHR3***

The Pan Haiku Review issue 3 (Summer edition 2024)

<https://www.callofthepage.org/the-pan-haiku-review/>

OpenHouse

PHR3

ed. Alan Summers

with Karen Hoy as **Planet of Tanka** *section editor*

This is an Open House issue with two particular rules:

First Rule:

Only ten lines of text for the whole submission!

Example:

A free verse poem of ten lines would be 9 lines of poem plus title.

A haibun would be 9 lines of text (prose and poem) plus title

Depending on which genre, it can be one poem or ten single line haiku.

Second rule:

No mention of words such as:

- silence, silent, silently
- still, stillness
- reflection, reflected
- old, young, alone, lonely, lone
- or other variations of the above

This *Open Season* is open to:

- cherita
- tanka
- haiku
- sequences
- haibun
- free verse
- formal poems
- prose poetry
- short fiction
- short creative non-fiction

Challenge: Only ten lines of text for entire submission.

Maximum: ten lines of text (including any titles)

Many thanks for proofreading by Alison Clayton-Smith and Karen Hoy.

Any mistakes are possibly mine now!

Alan Summers

founder, editor-in-chief, The Pan Haiku Review

<https://www.callofthepage.org/the-pan-haiku-review/>

