

# failed ~~haiku~~

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hemapriya chellappan

*Guest 'Failed' Editor*

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# FEATURE ARTICLE

BY *Roberta Beary*

***Using Season Words in Senryu  
or “Where did I put my kigo?”***

**[CLICK HERE](#)**

*Originally published in cairn44, the new st andrew's review (2009 nc)*

# Cast List

*In order of appearance*

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**Patricia Hawkhead & *John Hawkhead***

**Debbie Strange**

**Willie R. Bongcaron**

**Anna Maria Domburg-Sancristoforo & *Margherita Petriccione***

**Hifsa Ashraf/*Richa Sharma***

**Kirsten Cliff Elliot**

**Marilyn Humbert & *Samantha Sirimanne Hyde***

**Subir Ningthouja**

**Christina Chin**

**Susan King**

**Keith Evetts and *Ann Smith***

**Alan Peat**

**Ingrid Baluchi**

**Susan Burch/*Bryan Rickert***

**Bryan Rickert/*Susan Burch***

**Christine L. Villa/*Terri L. French***

**Alan Summers/*Christine L. Villa***

**Claire Vogel Camargo/*Christine L. Villa***

**John Hawkhead/*Hifsa Ashraf***

**Pris Campbell**

**Ravi Kiran**  
**Terri L. French/*Peggy Bilbro***  
**Terri L. French**  
**Marilyn Ashbaugh**  
**John Zheng**  
**Keith Evetts/*Marion Clarke***  
**Roberta Beach Jacobson**  
**Peter Jastermsky**  
**Sherry Grant/Vandana Parashar**  
**Vandana Parashar**  
**Erin Castaldi/*Roger Watson***  
**Kath Abela Wilson/*Jackie Chou***  
**Cynthia Anderson**  
**Arvinder kaur/*Vandana Parashar***  
**Chen-ou Liu**  
**Bryan Rickert/*Kat Lehmann***  
**Terri French/*Kat Lehmann***  
**Nika/Sidney Bending/Margaret Rutley**  
**Bryan Rickert/*Adjei Agyei-Baah***  
**Keith Evetts**  
**Lakshmi Iyer/*Adjei Agyei-Baah***  
**Milan Rajkumar/*Lakshmi Iyer***  
**Mark Meyer**  
**John Stevenson/*Sherry Grant***  
**Tim Cremin/*Susan Farner***  
**Susan Farner/*Tim Cremin***

**John Thompson/*J. Zimmerman***  
**Terrie Jacks/*John J. Han***  
**John J. Han/*Terrie Jacks***  
**Teji Sethi/*Priti Aisola***  
***Sushama Kapur*/Surashree Ulhas Joshi**  
***Surashree Ulhas Joshi*/Sushama Kapur**  
**Tsanka Shishkova**  
**Cynthia Rowe**  
**Priti Aisola/Lakshmi Iyer**  
**Tanya McDonald/*Lew Watts***  
**Lew Watts/*Tanya McDonald***  
**Mona Bedi/*Lakshmi Iyer***  
**Linda Papanicolaou/Sprite (Claire Chatelet)**  
**Mark A. Forrester**  
**Neena Singh**  
**John Thompson/*Sherry Grant***  
**Elisa Theriana/*Sherry Grant***  
**Adjei Agyei-Baah/*Emmanuel Jessie Kalusian***  
**Tzetzka Ilieva**  
**Geethanjali Rajan/*Lakshmi Iyer***  
**Bee Jay/*Sherry Grant***  
**Bee Jay/*Sherry Grant***  
**Suraja Roychowdhury**  
**Dana Gittings/Matt Snyder/Ryland Shengzhi Li**  
**Kavitha Sreeraj/*Vani Sathyanarayan***  
**Vani Sathyanarayan/*Kavitha Sreeraj***

**Mike Rehling/*Kelly Sauvage***

**Carol Raisfeld**

**Maya Daneva/*Sherry Grant***

**Mircea Moldovan**

**LeRoy Gorman**

**Nadejda Kostadinova**

**Ram Chandran**

**Anna Cates**

**Tanvi Nishchal/*Devoshruti Mandal***

**Tyler McIntosh**

**Sondra J. Byrnes**

night scented stock  
secret fragrance spills  
from a moth whisper

*her finger on my lips  
brands a spiral maze*

**Patricia Hawkhead & *John Hawkhead***

## **Darkroom**

duality  
the shadows and light  
inside memory

exposing yourself  
for what you are

negative strips  
I am nothing more  
than a ghost

changing your colours  
before my eyes

chemical bath  
it would be so easy  
to drown

red light  
you stop at nothing

contact prints  
these permanent reminders  
to forget

## **Debbie Strange**



## **Glimpses**

plastic cards  
my life dictated  
by numbers

a budding nymphet  
drawn closer to blossoms

letting go  
of all inhibitions  
in a wonderland

a bed of cotton clouds  
hangs in a dream

surreal  
swiftly losing the allure  
of youth

in a warzone of lust  
and blood — barely breathing

**Willie R. Bongcaron**

before daybreak  
I see by chance I see  
a piece of the moon

*in silver-black hair*  
*a faint smell of salt*

**Anna Maria Domburg-Sancristoforo & *Margherita*  
*Petriccione***

## **Back to Home**

crossing boundary  
the lingering smell  
of desi roti

*earthen pot  
welling up stars in her eyes*

nightingale songs  
pull me towards  
the old haveli

*again clambering  
over quiet walls  
a forgotten prayer*

concrete courtyard  
imprints of small feet

*passing breeze  
flecks of blossoms  
on my shawl*

**Hifsa Ashraf/Richa Sharma**

## **The Latest Fashion**

just another  
cracked phone screen  
teen clique

when there are no words  
emojis emoji emo

idling school bus  
the driver vaping into  
climate change

student body  
trying on pronouns  
at the bus stop

the latest fashion is  
the fashion from before

bubble gum  
why not dye my hair  
the same colour?

**Kirsten Cliff Elliot**  
**([@bookfuelled](#))**

## **Reflections**

vaccination queues...  
the glint of sunshine  
on a frosty lawn

*gust of wind*  
*discarded masks flutter*  
*on the pavement*

crows in formation  
swooping towards me  
window reflections

*self-isolation...*  
*my "to be read" pile*  
*returns to the shelves*

baking day  
cookies and cake  
cooling on the sill

*lockdown...*  
*my well-thumbed*  
*recipe books*

**Marilyn Humbert & Samantha Sirimanne Hyde**

lamps

tonight

dispel shadows

in the corners

children sing gleefully

i play a flute

the sweetmeats

an offering to Her

bring father's memory

all night long

**Subir Ningthouja**

Some Like it Spicy

torn page

*second breakup  
the rain hits  
differently*

the handwritten notes

new gossip  
sparks  
at the campfire

of mum's recipes

*made in India  
gunpowder  
with love*

Split Sequence

by  
Christina Chin

&  
*Hemapriya Chellappan*



Christina Chin

**Christina Chin**

## **Insomnia**

staring hard-eyed  
into pitiless dark  
hour after hour

palpitations  
in sync  
with the clock

schadenfreude  
other rooms lit  
at 3 a.m.

somewhere  
someone else's sky  
bright with stars

morning somehow  
and the sky  
a brittle blue

**Susan King**



## **Wet Dreams**

before and after  
the movie  
heavy rain

*love  
takes a back seat*

the sound  
of dinosaurs  
calling to their mates

*really don't want  
to have to go  
to the toilet*

the usher  
must carry a torch for her

*hope the stars  
are not extinct  
over Clapham*

**Keith Evetts and Ann Smith**

## **Patients**

*winter's heart*

blinding snow —  
we pay to turn  
the stations on

*right angles*

around the corner...  
lukewarm tea  
in a feeding cup

*under loose skin*

ticking —  
his blood-warmed  
clock

## **Alan Peat**

## **Isolation Angst**

video meeting  
they're spared the sight  
of his Hawaiian shorts

sudden awareness—  
his short stature  
in socks

mall-phobia  
the onerous chore  
of turning his collars

bathroom visit  
timing each step  
with his whistle-breaths

fleeting moments—  
injured pride  
after the bust-ups

kitchen isolation  
taking it out  
on the dough

**Ingrid Baluchi**

## **Cleaning House**

All Detergent–

*mountain fresh  
my desperate need  
for a clean start*

I'm ready

*frayed rope  
I pull myself  
out of bed*

to wash you

*daily chores  
using your toothbrush  
for the tight corners*

out of my sheets

*dark spots  
how did I not  
see them before*

my clothes, my life

*donation box  
not even the moths want  
your ugly shirts*

**Susan Burch/Bryan Rickert**

## **Too Little Too Late**

distant thunder

*out late  
with who knows who  
without a call  
the disrespect burns  
a hole in my gut*

the arguments seem small

*tired  
of waiting for you  
to come around  
I get down to the business  
of moving on*

now that you're gone

*solar eclipse -  
the horrible suspicion  
that I could have  
tried harder  
to save us*

**Bryan Rickert/Susan Burch**

## **The Bait**

crackle on the radio

*a country song  
found in the bottom  
of his beer*

changing the topic

*steak or pork chop  
I start to sizzle  
in his eyes*

so he would listen

*long way home  
a grease spot spreading  
on the take-out bag*

**Christine L. Villa/Terri L. French**

## ***Second Split***

drizzle-blasted

*another argument  
a sliver of us  
chips away*

we are no longer

*just an echo  
along the canyon  
were we just that*

(as) fairy tales

*our story ends  
on a cliffhanger  
a roll of thunder*

**Alan Summers/*Christine L. Villa***

## **Dream Home**

new house

*deck of cards  
we gamble on  
our dreams*

vultures perch

family and friends  
the seesaw of support  
and warnings

on the garbage bin

*cardboard boxes  
the weight of starting  
fresh*

**Claire Vogel Camargo/Christine L. Villa**



## **Heal Thyself**

coming home  
the family gate still creaks  
goodbye

*moths flicker  
around my silver hair*

genealogy  
tracing a path into  
inner space

*moondust  
chiselling out  
my narrative of being*

lost on the beaten track  
out of my old self

*mindfulness  
finding my place  
deep within*

**John Hawkhead/Hifsa Ashraf**  
**Education of a Different Sort**

ways of the world  
my male buddies take me  
to a strip club

date night  
he comes out gay bar  
by gay bar

new therapist  
he says touching me  
is therapeutic

monogamous—  
he kisses a co-worker  
and the flowers die

hooker haven  
the mysterious adult  
book store tells all

childhood ends early...  
grandpa's hand  
in the pie

aging  
not many moons left  
to watch the man shine

**Pris Campbell**  
**Whistling wind**

cold sandwich

six cups of tea  
the other chair  
still vacant

between him and her

in and out  
of their lives  
the ex

silence

the sun sets  
my solitude  
now complete

**Ravi Kiran**

## Corolla

sometimes I feel  
so overlooked—  
white wildflowers

*tiny purple bloom*  
*what's in a name*

staking its claim  
on the mountainside  
Indian Paintbrush

*wallflower*  
*the shrinking violet*  
*blushes*

the blaring red  
of trumpet vine

*Memorial Day parade*  
*lining the roadway*  
*poppies*

**Terri L. French**

**<https://www.terrilfrenchhaiku.com>**

***Peggy Bilbro***

## **Sidewalk Cracks**

on again off again  
his daughter's date kiss  
timed by the porch light

summer solstice  
the fireflies sleep in

breezeless day  
freshly washed sheets  
stiffen on the line

sidewalk cracks  
the broken backs  
of mother ants

another birthday  
what constitutes a hill

leaving the womb  
one last kick  
before it begins

**Terri L. French**

**<https://www.terrilfrenchhaiku.com>**

## **Bugged**

lights out  
making small talk  
with a mosquito

not sure  
which end is up  
wooly aphid

an invisible web  
draws me in  
crab spider

cinnabar moth  
a bright flash  
of insight

survivor guilt  
my chrysalis  
grows wings

**Marilyn Ashbaugh**

## **Seven Notes on Covid-19**

virus outbreak  
mom's voice a calm river  
on the phone

death toll  
the town chilled by ice  
this sad night

splintered sky  
each star  
a cold corona

spring equinox  
locked down  
from cherry viewing

vaccine form  
my cat twitches its nose  
and paws it

virus impact  
my package returned  
to the sender

year end  
life and death  
still a puzzle

**John Zheng**

## Swinging the Lead

river wharf  
on every post  
a seagull

*crowds flock to welcome  
the first cruise ship*

all the turkeys  
who look forward  
to Thanksgiving

*dry land  
more than a snifter of bourbon  
for the sailor*

oh for a bottom  
without barnacles

*Davy Jones  
never had it  
so good*

**Keith Evetts/*Marion Clarke***



## **At Sea**

mending his nets  
as his wife gives birth  
fisherman

working solo  
remembering words  
to old songs

night fishing  
silence of October  
stars

anniversary eve  
tying the last knot  
of his rope

no longer  
haunted by their eyes  
old fisherman

**Roberta Beach Jacobson**

## **The Bargain**

after hours

Satan's holiday  
mixing stripes  
with plaids

unwrapping the stars

sharpened stake  
poking through  
a new thesaurus

where they fall

die laughing  
we will  
when we want to

**Peter Jastermsky**

## **Heritage**

estate sale

lost holidays  
the family finds  
new excuses

the children's books

giveaway box  
memories  
they can't get rid of

await their new home

emancipated minors  
their younger selves  
finally free

**Peter Jastermsky**

# Motherhood

children's  
pleading eyes —  
distant thunder

*cradling my baby bump  
budding moon*

a storm brews  
in the kitchen  
reading tea leaves

*new mother  
for now, I keep aside  
my wings*

easy stroll in the park —  
all my equipment

*ice cream truck  
a mango flavoured handprint  
on my dress*

**Sherry Grant/Vandana Parashar**

***Translated to Hindi by Vandana Parashar***

मातृत्व

बच्चों की  
प्रार्थना मई आंखें...  
मेघ गर्जना

सहेजे हुए  
मेरा बेबी बंप...  
नवोदित चांद

रसोईघर में  
उमड़ता तूफ़ान  
चाय की पत्तियाँ पढ़ना

नई मां  
अभी के लिए, अलग रखती हूँ  
अपने पंख

पार्क में सैर –  
मेरा सब साजो-सामान

कुलफी वैन  
आम के स्वाद वाला हस्तछाप  
मेरे कपड़ों पर

## **God's favourite**

pilgrimage

losing myself

I set out to find

God

VIP queue

Hermes bag

she drops a coin

in donation box

moves faster

outside the temple

old and new shoes

lined together

## **Vandana Parashar**

leaves  
a trail of moonlight  
parting lovers

this heartbeat  
resonating  
in my ears

falls asleep  
headlong  
into stars

turning over in bed  
last night's barbecue  
still warm

sifting moonlight  
tempered glass cast  
a tepid glow

**Erin Castaldi/*Roger Watson***

## **Mismatch**

pearl drops  
missing one  
of every pair

unstrung gems scattered  
on my vanity table

searching for the moon  
to match this star  
my left ear longer

heavenly creatures  
from different galaxies  
this romance

puzzle rings  
how we fit together

your hand in mine  
our reflections in the mirror  
conjoin

**Kath Abela Wilson/*Jackie Chou***



## **My Foolish Heart**

low blood pressure

the old songs-  
this sudden tingling  
in my head

the reason why

in my ant-body  
a tireless worker  
until I die

I'm barely here

still the past  
repeating itself  
repeating itself

**Cynthia Anderson**

## **Toys R Us**

ebb tide  
someone's barbie  
left behind

Hamleys  
my son picks a magic wand

this inner child  
I have to attend to...  
little pink frock

onesies on clothesline  
a toy salesman knocks  
at my door

noon stillness  
an ice-cream truck raises dust

recession  
someone else's child plays  
on my swing

**Arvinder kaur/*Vandana Parashar***

## **The Weight of Fear**

policemen  
bust another house party  
at an Airbnb  
we're all in this together  
to get infected

a long lineup  
at the mobile clinic  
two young men  
with masks under their chins  
laughing at each other

delta surging  
and antibodies waning ...  
I escape  
into the crawl space  
of ten-year-old me

**Chen-ou Liu**

## **Oil Technique**

Le Grande Jatte  
the monkey business  
of dots

stipples of red  
in the grass

en plein air  
all the yellows  
in a field of wheat

switching canvases  
he paints the light  
of a haystack

the impasto  
of poplars

stained fingers  
his full palette painted  
alla prima

**Bryan Rickert/*Kat Lehmann***

## **Between Seasons**

tempted to touch it  
a butterfly mask  
beneath the bush

*one gloved hand sheds  
another glove*

after our walk  
I sanitize  
the dog's paws

*lockdown window  
we count each bloom  
of forsythia*

a new welcome mat  
outside the coffee shop

*lily buds  
how long it takes  
to begin again*

**Terri French/Kat Lehmann**

## Turning the corner

Sunday morning  
an empty bus  
turns the corner

Nika

far shallow  
far fisherman

Sidney Bending

telephone pole . . .  
a missing person poster  
upside down

Margaret Rutley

on the evening news  
thousands seeking refuge

Nika

dark lane  
the homeless man lights  
someone's used cigar

Sidney Bending

at the curb  
a soldier's duffle      free

Margaret Rutley

## **Endtime Sermon**

long church service  
praying for  
its end

*lady chews & pops gum  
endtime sermon*

fire and brimstone  
the preacher's spittle  
on the front row

*after offering call  
a congregant's bag  
goes missing*

an altar boy's pocket  
bulging with bills

*long sermon  
a sleeper's fart  
winds it up*

**Bryan Rickert/Adjei Agyei-Baah**

## **Believe**

I turn around  
three times  
and it stops raining

we prayed  
for sun  
now look

Milky Way  
bashing the set  
works

lab tea break  
half the scientists  
put milk in first

white hairstreaks  
the one time she passed  
under a ladder

after the carwash summer rain

no sharks in the Thames  
I'm not saying  
how I did it

someone else  
wished on that star  
before



won the lottery  
just by  
being alive

I'd like to see you  
do that again

**Keith Evetts**

## **Confluence**

house boat trip  
the full moon  
wobbling with us

*the wave of neighbours  
swaying reeds*

waking up to  
the drum beats  
my sea sickness

*crabs clear way  
for our arrival  
empty beach*

passing clouds  
I get used to another sky

*African Safari  
the kingly ride amidst  
trumpet of elephants*

**Lakshmi Iyer/Adjei Agyei-Baah**

## **Summer Quest**

lone journey ...  
not leaving him alone  
the hunter moon

summer woods  
earth holds a different sky

on a dried branch  
cicada's shell sways  
with the wind

half-echoes  
heard from afar  
songs of the tribe

yelping geese chase  
the setting sun

smell of night  
the unsaid words  
within the stars

**Milan Rajkumar/*Lakshmi Iyer***

## **The Metaphor Express**

train of thought  
a lonesome whistle  
coming round the bend

riding the rails  
through the long black tunnel  
no expectations

clickety-clack  
leaving the station  
a train in vain

smokestack lightning...  
hopping the next boxcar  
to anywhere else

off the rails...  
his entire life  
one big train wreck

all aboard  
next stop  
the Twilight Zone

**Mark Meyer**

**NY / NZ**

*Translated into traditional Chinese by Sherry Grant*

on the far side  
of a clock  
new zealand

wall street sharks  
a big bite off new york

your  
north island  
my soho

west side story  
a black sheep  
in the flock

if the sun never sets  
it also never rises

the wind scatters  
messenger pigeons  
all year round

**John Stevenson/*Sherry Grant***

紐約 / 紐西蘭

時鐘  
遙遠的那一端  
是紐西蘭

華爾街鯊魚(奸商)  
咬了紐約(蘋果)一大口

你們的  
北島是  
我們的蘇活區

西城故事  
羊群裡的  
一隻黑羊

既無日落  
也無日出

一年到頭  
微風吹散了  
信鴿

cheating on  
my fake diet  
National Donut Day

*glazed calories*  
*don't count*

**Tim Cremin/*Susan Farner***

summer evening  
he goes head-first  
down the slide

*pink clouds*  
*purpling*

**Susan Farner/*Tim Cremin***

## **Shimmer**

what if our breaths  
were all things of immense beauty?  
dolphins breaching

*and then  
fireflies*

a canopied path  
red squirrels leaping  
overhead

*mountain creek  
that devourable fragrance  
wild western azalea*

bridging the canyon  
a single glistening thread

*between rapids  
the submerged water ouzel  
forages briskly*

**John Thompson/J. Zimmerman**



## **The Golden Ager**

old age  
a surplus  
of age lines

*the time it takes to turn  
the pages of a book*

before my time  
forgotten words  
senior moment

*senior fitness class  
a new male member draws  
stares from grannies*

the middle of class  
someone snores

*funeral  
an old man lets the widow  
know of his interest*

**Terrie Jacks/John J. Han**

## **Election Year**

political poems  
sender doesn't know they go  
to my junk mail

*biased junk mail  
pondering deletions or blocking*

new election polls  
now he sounds  
more philosophical

*now enlightened  
his new calm is not  
my reality*

campaign yard signs  
as if they do any good

*near Halloween  
political signs hang out  
with ghouls and goblins*

**John J. Han/Terrie Jacks**

## **A Grim Harvest**

burnt toast  
all that came  
in our share

*at every turn  
a dead end*

Shadow City  
even shadows  
betray us

*huddled together  
behind barred doors  
debris*

spring comes and goes  
bombshells

*field upon field  
of poppies  
goes to seed*

*‘Shadow City’ is the title of a book on Kabul.*

**Teji Sethi/Priti Aisola**

## **Mirage**

*paper moon*

in the folds  
of her marital bed  
secrets

*what should have been*

*the dance  
of breaths  
their duet*

*is not what is*

rose petals  
from last night  
dry waste

***Sushama Kapur/Surashree* Ulhas Joshi**

## **An Evolving**

*foreign land*

homesick  
I choke on a piece  
of burnt toast

*only memories*

*chilly evening*  
*your fragrance lingers*  
*on my pashmina*

*for company*

open window  
migratory geese illumine  
a sunset sky

***Surashree Ulhas Joshi/Sushama Kapur***

## **Memories and Dreams**

homecoming  
the lonely ghost  
of my childhood

two faces  
in the puddle after rain  
the sun and me

skinned knees  
and a feather hat  
memories and dreams

waving grass  
kite  
in my bag

wind chimes  
the sounds  
of my juniority

**Tsanka Shishkova**

## **Out of Ashes**

bushfire breakout  
ringing relatives and friends  
long distance

45°  
smoke frames the family  
olive groves

pacemaker –  
Pop's help declined  
for now

horses set free  
his cousin packs up  
a second time

charred fields  
the long trudge home

soaked canvas ...  
waiting it out  
by the river

## **Cynthia Rowe**

## **Highs and Lows**

temple bells ...  
wilting flowers  
in the puja room

how each time I pray  
for what is not mine

my hand drops  
the prayer beads –  
missed calls

a black cat  
crosses my path  
fear of a loss

first light of dawn  
my pet licks me awake

morning breeze  
Vedic chants  
in the air

**Priti Aisola/Lakshmi Iyer**



## **On the Order of Pecking**

hide-and-seek  
hours until  
someone finds me

*jumping jacks*  
*all the gang watching*

hot lava carpet  
relegating the youngest  
to be the monster

*under the stairs*  
*my girl cousins*  
*play surgeons*

backyard baseball  
batting with rotten duck eggs

*first day of school*  
*older brothers' scum*  
*on the bathwater*

**Tanya McDonald/*Lew Watts***

## **Ripcord**

blind date  
I slip the waiter  
my phone number

the timely resurrection  
of a dead grandmother

channelling  
that lost barramundi . . .  
crocodile tears

clam chowder—  
the sudden return  
of lactose intolerance

back to my childhood  
a belch on command

eyes wide open  
the exit sign  
gives me the green light

**Lew Watts/*Tanya McDonald***

## **Symphony**

piercing  
the mountain silence  
a cicada

*thunderclap beats  
the village downhill*

base camp  
call of the sherpa  
through the pines

*soaring high  
eagles screech  
through our ears*

rumbling clouds  
the way the sun peeks out

*clicking a selfie  
with the evergreens  
the shutterbug*

**Mona Bedi/Lakshmi Iyer**

## **Changing Times**

which way  
is the wind blowing?  
wildfire season

'code red for humanity'  
finally says the UN

our bank account  
and credit cards  
locked up by ransomware

in the nick of time  
I put the phone down  
on hackers

masking up  
a walk with the dog

a pressing need  
to inject everything  
with a dose of humour

**Linda Papanicolaou/Sprite (Claire Chatelet)**

## **Practicing Scales**

sleeping rough  
church bells herald  
evening mass

tattered jacket  
the noisy cricket  
sharing her alcove

waddawe have here?—  
the policeman eyes her  
up and down

blistered feet—  
somewhere a flautist  
practicing scales

steel drums  
cold rain bouncing  
from parked cars

silver curls  
faded graffiti  
above her head

**Mark A. Forrester**

## **Qualia**

pandemic  
wave after wave  
rolls in

isolation scrolling  
my iPhone for company

overseas children visit  
work from home  
all night long

sleeping like bats  
the circadian rhythm  
goes for a toss

grandson tells stories  
of the seven ocean zones

eventually  
I will take you there  
he promises

**Neena Singh**

## **Stuck**

more ash  
than rain this year  
daylong twilight

*stuck inside  
a loop*

embracing  
fear, ignorance and hate  
our three disgraces

*midnight sirens  
the cries of a baby  
left on doorsteps*

a billionaire brags  
about paying no taxes

*zoom invitation  
another round of peace  
talks in the Middle East*

**John Thompson/Sherry Grant**

# 困境

作者：約翰·湯普森 + 火の鳥

中文翻譯：火の鳥

今年飄揚的灰燼  
比下雨還多  
成天是朦朧的曙光

困在  
無限循環中

欣然擁抱  
恐懼、無知和仇恨  
三位恥辱女神

夜半警笛響起  
門口傳來被拋棄  
嬰兒的慘哭聲

億萬富翁誇耀自己  
不用繳稅的特權

網路會議邀請函  
下一回合的  
中東和平談判



## **Silk Road**

rusted wind chimes  
I was born  
with a foreign name

*dreams docking*  
*paper boat*

high tide  
a butterfly flaps  
its wings

*crossroad*  
*flip of a coin*  
*for luck*

breath by breath  
mountains and clouds

*moonlight*  
*journey to the end*  
*a crescendo*

**Elisa Theriana/Sherry Grant**

## Ways Of The Road

highway  
a postman pissing  
by the roadside

*enjoying whiskey with fart  
windows up*

slow-moving traffic  
a junky washes my windscreen  
with dirty water

*August rain  
a hawker selling  
wipers*

a wailing ambulance  
caught in the clutter of cars

*end of rush hour  
the hearse driver  
pulls up for banana*

**Adjei Agyei-Baah/*Emmanuel Jessie Kalusian***

## **Empty Nesters**

first day of autumn  
we leave the door unlocked  
long after sunset

mackerel clouds  
there is no emoji for them

I should take up fishing  
he says...  
just to make me smile

blue moon  
my silk nightgown  
would it fit

spring afternoon  
the river deep with sky

telling my mother-in-law  
about the children...  
how proud she would have been

## **Tzetzka Ilieva**

## **A White-Collar Job**

research interview  
the panelists distracted  
by birdsong

*adjusting his tight-noose tie*  
*the student stammers*

cannot wipe  
the smirk on my face  
video freeze

*break-time*  
*flies assemble around*  
*the spilled coffee*

amidst the monotonous buzz  
a suppressed yawn

*power cut ...*  
*spinning down*  
*a spiral staircase*

**Geethanjali Rajan/*Lakshmi Iyer***

## **Invitation**

too shy  
to show my face  
drifting leaf

*full makeup on  
turning the car around*

road rage  
swear words cut across  
my apology

*hard brake  
the steady stare  
of a startled deer*

99 missed calls  
birds chatter in trees

*returning  
the wedding dress  
no refund*

**Bee Jay/Sherry Grant**

# 邀請

作者：蜂 / 火の鳥

中文翻譯：火の鳥

害羞得  
不敢露面  
飄落之葉

在濃妝豔抹後  
卻決定把車子調頭

路上怒火中燒  
的司機謾罵  
我連聲道歉

緊急煞車  
受到驚嚇的野鹿  
雙眼瞪直

99條未接來電  
樹上群鳥嘰嘰喳喳

歸還那件  
結婚禮服  
可惜不能退款

## **Wild**

the school  
partly hidden by mist  
first day

*still hanging on...*  
*laughter at the park*

lunch monitor  
the pebble pushed  
into an enemy's pie

*dancing*  
*around the edge*  
*friendship ring*

hiding from bullies  
behind the prickly pear

*graduation*  
*he plucks a wild rose*  
*for her corsage*

**Bee Jay/Sherry Grant**

# 狂野

作者：蜂 / 火の鳥

中文翻譯：火の鳥

上學第一天  
部分校園被  
濃霧籠罩

公園的笑聲  
猶在耳際

午餐糾察隊  
我在敵手吃的派裡  
偷偷放了一顆石子

圍在邊上  
跳舞  
朋友圈（友誼戒指）

為了躲避惡霸  
我藏在仙人掌後面

畢業典禮  
他親自為她摘了朵  
野玫瑰插在胸前



## **Slashing Rain (*mitsumono renku*)**

slashing rain  
sheets of red and yellow  
falling leaves

persian carpet patterns  
with crumbs from last night's party

lost in memories  
her slanted writing  
in a book

**Suraja Roychowdhury**

## **Wishing**

pitter-patter  
the busy feet of rain  
on a drowsy day

DG

blooms drop and wind rises  
where do the bees go

MS

dew-drenched  
wishing tree  
I tie one more

RL

summer's eve  
my breathless memory

DG

frozen lake road  
trees spinning  
the shock of water

MS

I awaken  
into a starless night

RL

**Dana Gittings/Matt Snyder/Ryland Shengzhi Li**

## Lost and Found

visit to the attic . . .  
a faint smell of thazhampoo\*  
from the trunk box

*callused fingers  
doodle through cobwebs*

dimmed skylight  
a guffaw escapes  
from the dusty comic

*crimsoned lock  
the interplay  
of light and rust*

the wooden floor creaks  
beneath my feet

*I wrap myself  
in mother's old sarees  
patchwork quilt*

*\*Thazhampoo or the screw pine flower is known for its fragrance. In olden days the petals of this flower was used as a freshener and placed inside folded clothes.*

**Kavitha Sreeraj/Vani Sathyanarayan**

## Travel Tales

pranayama  
    my breath syncs  
with the bullock cart

*racing minds  
in still vehicles*

tricycle  
    wish I had a ticket  
to go around with you

*finishing line  
    the meter runs faster  
than the auto rickshaw*

bumpy ride  
the space between us

*business class  
her legs stretch  
a little longer*

**Vani Sathyanarayan/Kavitha Sreeraj**

**fly rengay**

haiku walk  
on a blossom covered path  
a half eaten pinecone

*sap-kissed fingers*  
*the rub of tattered jeans*

pulling the hood  
over my head  
the placid rain

*loop trail*  
*the yearning of twigs*  
*and sparrows*

downhill run  
slipping on wet pine needles

*boots a-shimmer*  
*a hint of copper*  
*on the first black fly*

**Mike Rehling/Kelly Sauvage**

## **Long Day**

staring contest  
writer versus paper  
paper wins

writer's block  
wastebasket full  
he checks email

blank  
the writer sneaks off  
for a snack

writer dozes  
blank paper left  
smirking

## **Carol Raisfeld**

## **Gone**

mom's gone  
her last request  
to clean the bird feeder

*jotting down ideas  
for happiness*

these eyes  
deep in prayer  
faces of the doves

*fluttering away  
I thought this ladybug  
brings good luck*

the pressed four-leaf  
clover breaks

*taken  
to the sky  
a new star*

**Maya Daneva/Sherry Grant**

Translated to Bulgarian by Maya Daneva

## Тръгва си

мама си отива  
за последно ме моли да почистя  
птичата хранилка

*записвам си идеи  
за повече щастие*

тези очи  
задълбочени в молитва  
лица на гълъби

*пърхане навън  
тази калинката изглежда  
ми носи късмет*

пропуска се хербарий  
от четирилистна детелина

*приета  
в небето  
нова звезда*



## **A Stray Dragonfly**

summer wanderer  
a begging child  
shows her the rain

sole of a shoe  
subject to dust

the newspaper seller  
pick zebras  
from the pink asphalt

hot beer  
on the Pakistani terrace  
a stray dragonfly

cold drops  
in the lady's cleavage

in a hat  
two yellow butterflies  
swimming

**Mircea Moldovan**

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## **dishing it out**

romantic dinner

old lovers

a side dish

goodbye breakfast

legs

over easy

breakup brunch

cold shoulder

cold heart

**LeRoy Gorman**

## **Sunbeams**

field of dry grasses  
as far as I can see  
dazzling blue

a wave tickling my toes  
child's laughter

single sunflower  
in front of the house  
dusty road

a moment to myself  
black crow above me  
picking on a pine tree

ups and downs in our relationship  
curve both of us

family reunion  
where my roots  
tangle

**Nadejda Kostadinova**

cleaning the loft  
mother's journal  
I am born again

old family photo  
walking out of the past

self portrait  
I look like  
a stranger

evening walk  
setting sun lengthening  
my sorrows

drifting clouds  
I slowly learn to dissolve

shoots  
from deadwood  
still I have life to live

**Ram Chandran**

## **Uninvited Guests**

scurrying and screams  
my many futile prayers  
you'd lodge elsewhere

field mice—  
with apologies to Issa  
I call pest control

hint of chi  
in a young man's smile  
candied poison

news item  
nude in a giant mouse trap  
a PETA protester

farm store  
old timer in overalls  
buying rodent bait

**Anna Cates**

## **The Doors**

hot shower  
washing away  
all my doubts

sizzling oil  
i hum grandma's tune

in sync  
with dreams ...  
her footsteps

prickly cactus  
the summer of my heart  
closing in

slamming back in time  
the doors

lights out  
burning inch by inch  
within

**Tanvi Nishchal/*Devoshruti Mandal***

## **heart surgery**

granny panties  
inside my gown  
a rising blush

foggy night  
presses inside me  
a stranger's steps

the stent  
holds me open  
old makeup kit

lips on mine...  
the memory    memory  
swabbing a scalpel

anesthesia  
someone's heartbeat  
in my hands

peering in  
for a missing piece  
eyes in the mirror

**Tyler McIntosh**

## **remembering kyoto**

koan study  
waiting for a twig  
to snap

our knees speak  
the same language  
tea ceremony

ryoan-ji  
fifteen stones  
waiting

ikebana  
finding room  
for space

lilliputian gardens  
at every front door  
hello!

aha!  
the few words  
of haiku

**Sondra J. Byrnes**



**Hemapriya Chellappan Guest 'Failed' Editor**  
**editor@failedhaiku.com**  
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