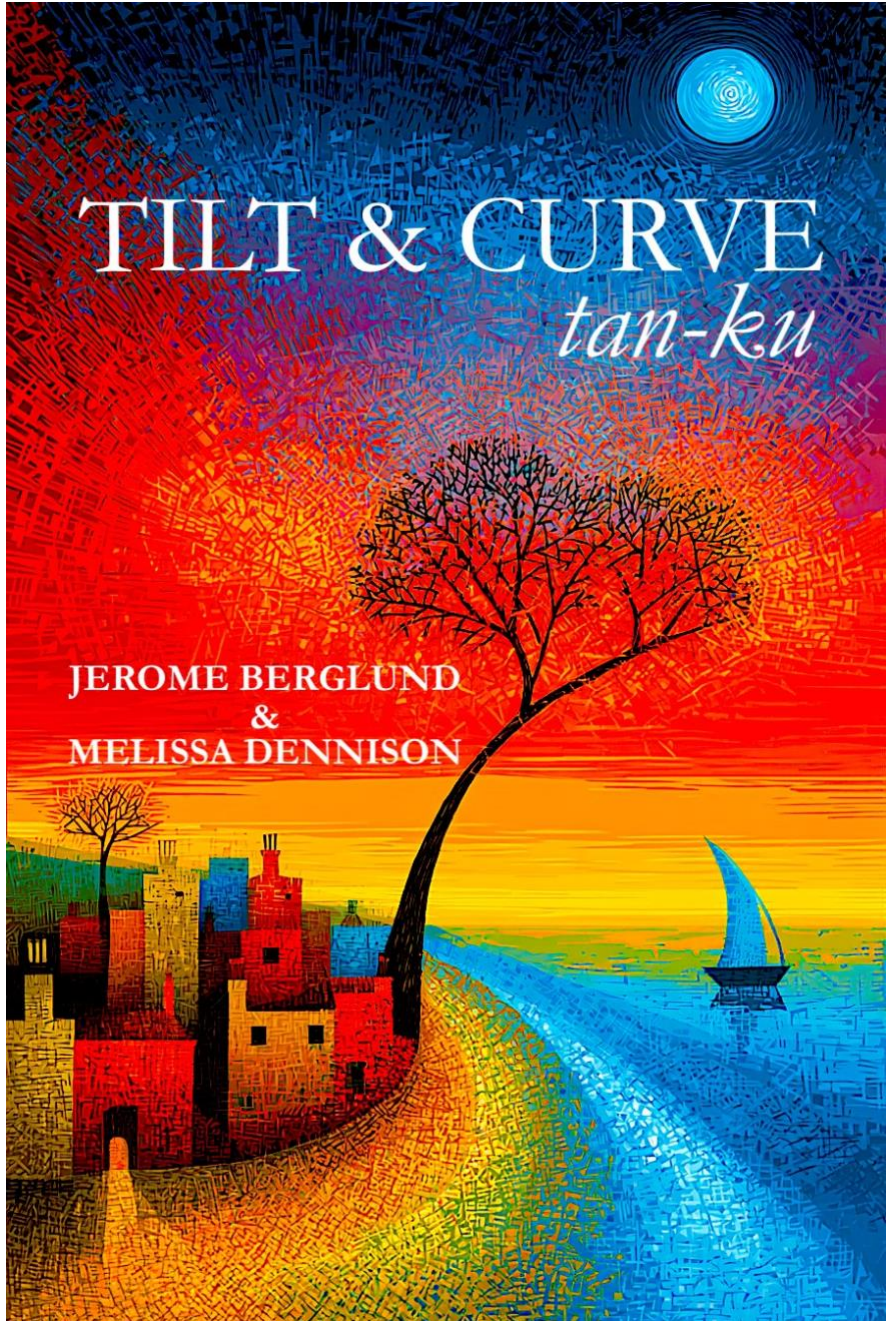

2026 O:JA&L POETRY SERIES

A Writers' Collaboration



HOT BUTTON PRESS

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TILT AND CURVE

TAN-KU

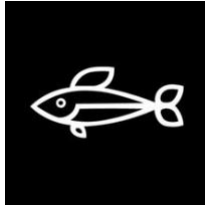
42 linked poems

JEROME BERGLUND

&

MELISSA DENNISON

This project was made possible, in part, through support from
Grayling and Wraith, a growth marketing company.



contents as list of illustrations

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Wat Sri Suphan

worm holes

*cigarette butts:
reads each poem,
tears it out
and hurls from the stage,
crumpled*

shield bug
is that what aliens
look like?

*

minced onions

*closing blinds
looks like biding
something
when just
biding*

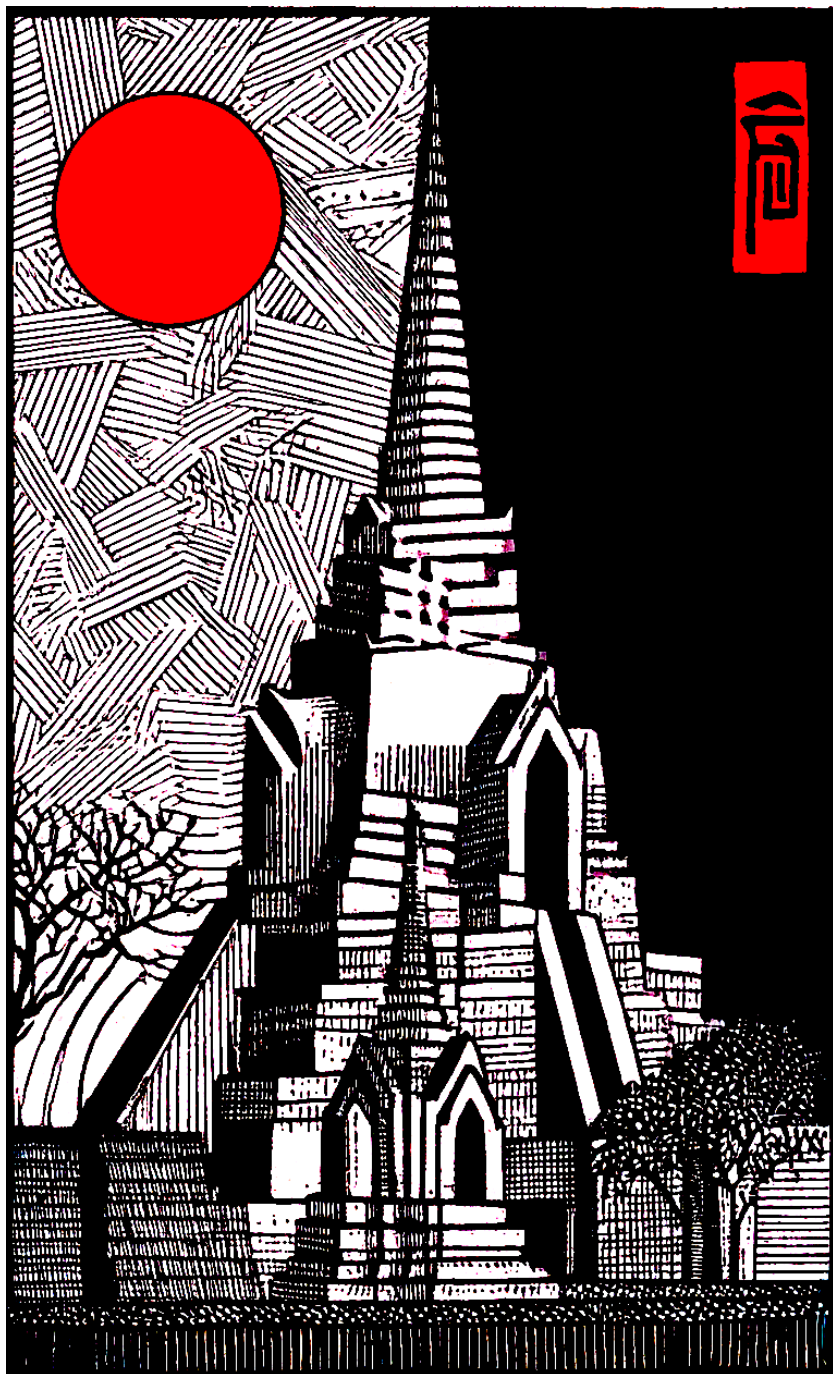
breathing deep
the cellar door
creaks

*

gravitational lens

*unmoored craft
waiting
for connection
to work
again*

one by one
drops roll off
a leaf



Wat Mahatat

operating theater

dew point . . .
the fruit
we couldn't
use
in time

such little lives
the ant &
i

*

vacuum parking only

orchid
in the window
too many
books going
at once

joy in the
little things...
not another wasp

*

impromptu
swamp
gps
goes crazy
in the parking lot

doctor's surgery
it's all fake
smiles



Wat Thai

prime lenses

*deny blades
there are better
versions
of these poems
somewhere*

city streets
exploding dandelions
and daisies

*

vertigo

*puddle
stretches out
again:
make yourself
comfortable*

beneath the tall crane
snail climbs a
daisy

*

his lost ear

garden stake --
the gloss of ladybirds
sprayed twine

*safest times
to be outside
caucasus mountains
anyone living
ganguin ideal*



Wat Rong Khun: Chiang Rai

ink blot

green for go
at a junction
nesting bird

*bush bush
jokes
and their
relationship
to the unconscious*

*

harmony of the spheres

bump in the night
foxes
in the wheelie bins

*shock absorber
scrubbing pad
can function
as a
paper towel*

*

vespers

jackhammer...
in the distance
sparrow song

*roof prints
day shift is mad as
the night shift
bleeding beneath cold pack
she disappears through a door*



Kamakura

polar vortex

*strange traffic
at this late hour
concealed
deep in
the fallen oak*

a gnawing silence
beetle emerges
from the gallery

*

return flight

*irish moss
making it
through
the wedding
sober*

salt slick
clinging to the shelf
staring into the abyss

*

bumbershoot

spring heat
beetles ride
piggyback

*florida sun
leaving the leftovers
behind
rain might
surprise you today*



Wat Rong Suea Ten

abstract expressionism

midsummer
dog saliva patterns
the porch

*timing the merge
to speed up
or slow down
red nose
pitbull*

*

evensong

of randy frogs
much is said...
the old pond filled in

*unchanging
change
dogpaddling
planned
obsolescence*

*

plant sitting

*solomon place
these demons are all here
and we live with them
...rafael also
plays brass*

springtails
spring across
compost peaks



Wat Pho: The Reclining Buddha

victoriana

through
iron railings
helping the bee home

*the eighth day
and all those
subsequently
not retired
but tired*

*

well manicured

culture clash
brown rat
in suburban gardens

*visiting
bizzaro
world
your tour guides
its defectors*

*

signals

clear skies
last season's leaves fall
on fresh snow
all that remains
feathers by the wall

*orange peel
these ashtrays aren't
for show*



Yaksha

catch a case

goldfish swims out
of plimsoll...
drifting catkins

*egret lands
beside crocodile's tail
jutting from water
at the polls
result direction*

*

bone spur

a tough break up
clouds travel
east to west

*we thought
there was a future
or a past
nobility in poverty
if unfashionable*

*

second class

asking for
another swirl
spotting
a new polymorph
at last the snails return

*mail lady
makes the rounds
giving each plant a splash*

*

ant nest

ice
stings a clarity
of light
shards of glass
in my hands

buy one
get one
marching in



Garuda

pollinated by beetles

bread floating
on the surface
has the magpie
forgotten?
such a variety of greens

gay
apparel
tree peeping

*

laws of physics

February
gondolier
icy channel –
brick walls and
colourful facades

on the
pavement
a splash rebounds

*

longing for rain

another wasp
stopping for a drink
adding pebbles to the pool
prevents drowning

fan boat's wake
what constitutes
a bayou

Published in Kizuna, online magazine of the Tan-Ku Association, January 2026



Singha

goose grass

kindly
keep your pets
off our lawn...

I miss
the firebugs

hanging
from the tree:
little black parcels

*

broken spoke

ten minutes
through the pouring rain
each way
...you wanted
to cool down

sprouts
and satsumas...
autumn delights

*

distant stars

birds sing
on this clear morning
yet the absence
of clouds makes me yearn
for the scent of rain

between
the moons I miss
the old days



Naga

great acoustics

candle
on its side aname giri
wish
I could have heard
grandpa at meetings

in the grass
dried leaves
glisten with dew

*

jackaroo

increasingly
rare
these days
the intricacy
of snow

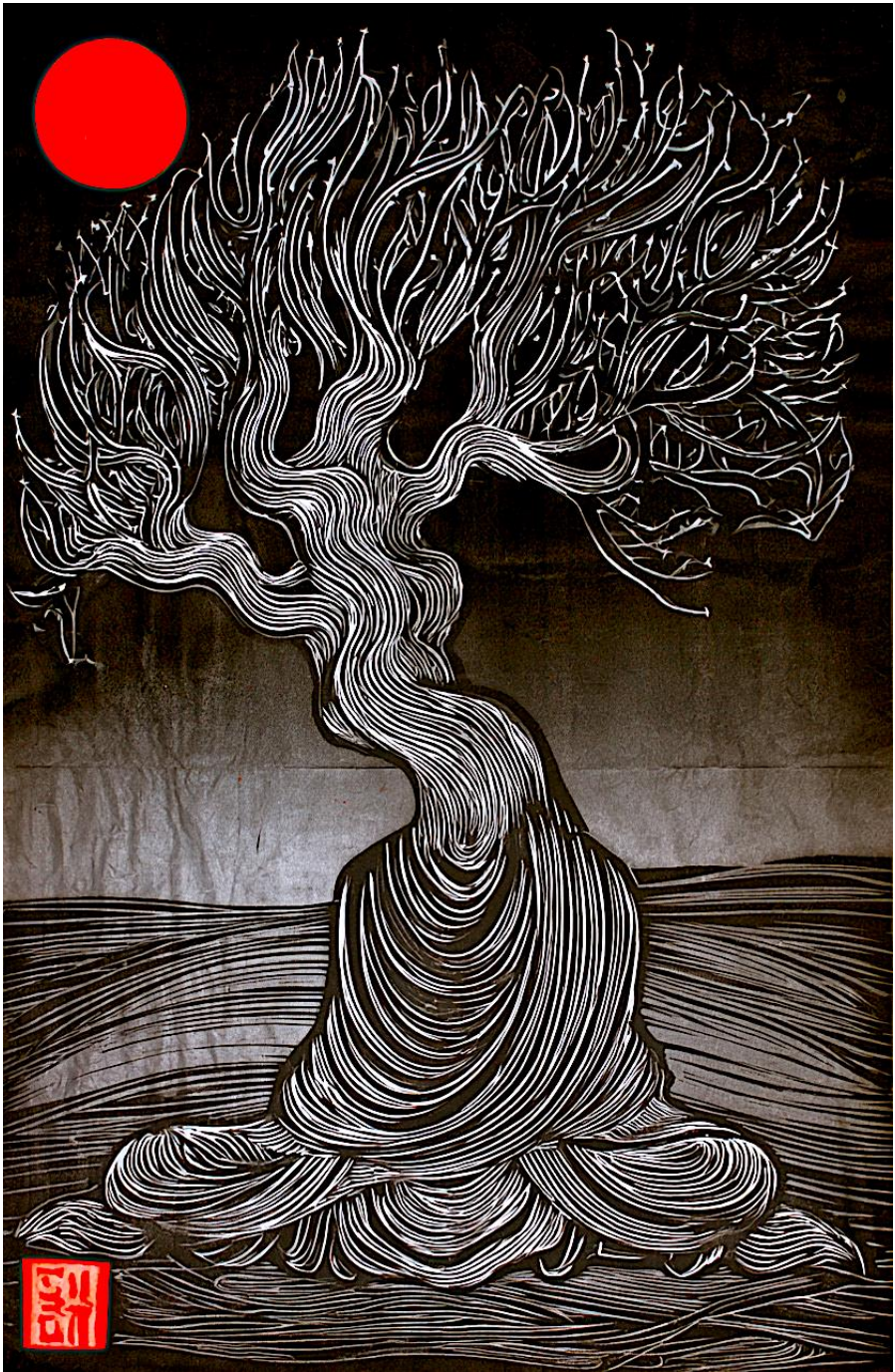
a cattle dog's
psyche
meds

*

the old owl

exploring
my window –
ladybirds
awake in december
the speed of change

lissajous curve
of raptors undulating
pacing us



The Bodhi Tree

hole in the glove

depends
which circle
sightseeing

microcosm: the soil
shook from my hands

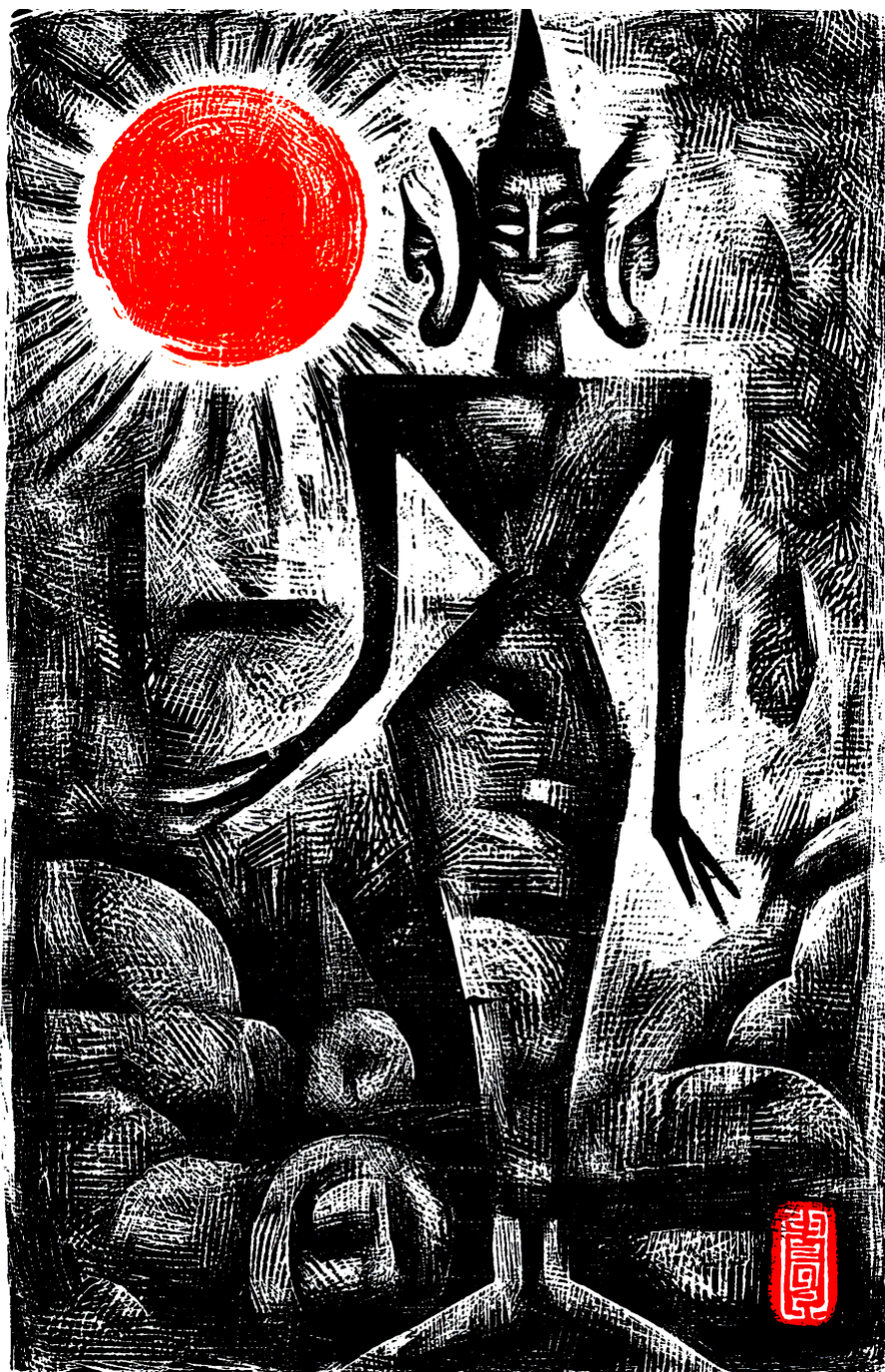
*

change

winter afternoon
the distant call of crows
ivy clinging to ash...
trees bathe
in the softest of lights

coming down
still
fighting the snow

Published in Kizuna, online magazine of the Tan-ku Association, January 2026



Phra Mae Khongkha

mint condition

*he thinks
I'm always off
to a gala
somewhere
party of one*

arguing
does the past have
a place in haiku?

*

pit barbecue

*says/ does/ believes
walking
in clown shoes
to
new orleans*

egyptian exhibition
how much have we
really changed?

*

vital signs

*the black hole
annihilates
information*

a brief
spell between showers
noticing
a butterfly opening
and closing its wings

*

brain swelling

*be kind to yourself
I've been fooled too
at least once*

the impersonal
nature of modern health
echoing down
the halls that chemical
smell of paint



Pbra Phikanet

air pressure

a crammed
wardrobe yet there's
nothing
to wear, outside the endless
drone of traffic

*the sky
is falling
— chicken little*

*

phase shift

*realizing
that the moon
is full:
elation just as swiftly
drains*

how quick
the beetle's shadow —
still a chilly morning

*

soil samples

who needs romance
when you
can dance under stars
and watch
comets streak the heavens?

*the circus
of animals
space camp*



Wat Phra Dhammakaya

polished ware

*what do
the white house
correspondents
have for dinner?
...or
desserts...*

the wisdom of dogs --
to be content
with love alone

*

a rich port

*spirits
or angels which
feed on pain
and
corruption...*

thrift shop...
stumbling across
a rare gift

ABOUT THE WRITERS:

JEROME BERGLUND, recently nominated for the Touchstone awards, Best of the Net and Pushcart Prizes, resides in New Orleans, previously having lived in the Longfellow neighborhood of Minneapolis, which was locus to the George Floyd protests. His writing as often as possible strives to engage with significant social and economic concerns of our day that align with missions of decolonization and abolition. He has been involved in activism for the causes of *Occupy Los Angeles*, *Standing Rock*, and the *Black Lives Matter* movement, supported outreach efforts promoting ecosocialism. Many haiku, haiga and haibun he's written have been exhibited online and in print, most recently in *bottle rockets*, *Frogpond*, and *Presence*.

MELISSA DENNISON is a writer of Japanese short form poetry, short stories and flash fiction. She is a co-host and commentator for *re:Virals*, is a weekly interactive feature on The Haiku Foundation, has had her own haiku published in journals including *Presence*, *Failed Haiku*, *Poetry Pea*, *Wales Haiku*, *Under the Basho*, *Cold Moon*, and in anthologies including *Heterodox Haiku*, *Poetry Pea's Little Marvel* and the British Haiku Society *Member's Anthology*. She has been nominated for a Touchstone Award. Melissa also has an origami chapbook published called *A Prayer of Birds*.

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2020

Flash Fiction: A Primer

A writer's resource by Associate Editor Pamelyn Casto

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by O:JA&L Featured Writers

Ray-the Roo

Experimental Discourse by Associate Editor WJP Newnham

Horse: 4 Frames

Haibun by Associate Editor Jeff Streeby

2021

Just Willie Please: Eight Flash Fiction Tales

A flash fiction sequence by Don Robishaw

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An essay from a longer academic WIP by Anne Whitehouse

The First Annual O:JA&L Prize for Flash Discourse

Selected and with an Introduction by Associate Editor Pamelyn Casto

The 10 Best Flash Narratives 2017-2021

Here Comes Herodotus, Again!

Flash Discourse by Wayne Cresser

Where the Thin Winds Worry

Flash Discourse by Carolyn Mikulencak

(No longer available)

2022

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Hunger Pains

Flash Discourse by Mark Blickley

Comedy Hour

Poetry by Bruce Robinson

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Haiku by Jianqing Zheng

Scaring Crow

Haiku by Adjei Agyei-Baah

Dust and Rust

Haibun by Taofeek Ayeyemi

A Sweater for the Tayfel

Irish/English Haiku by Gabriel Rosenstock celebrating the art of Issachar Ber Ryback

Zen and the Art of House Painting

New and selected flash fiction by Wayne Scheer

The Selborne Haibun

Irish/English Haibun by Gabriel Rosenstock, featuring passages from THE NATURAL
HISTORY OF SELBORNE by Gilbert White (1720-1793)

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Haiku by Adjei Agyei-Baah

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Prose poetry by Hekkei Huotari

Jackhammer Poems

Poetry by Ben Jacques

Six Coffees with a Madman

Experimental Fiction by Blossom Hibbert

Drops of Water

Haiku by Yuko Otomo

Irish translation by Gabriel Rosenstock

Scots translation by John McDonald

Just Looking

Haiku Sequences on the Mississippi Delta region by Jianquing Zheng

Qualm (Before a Storm)

Poetry by Bruce Robinson

Eye of the Fish

Haiga (or EKPHRATIC HAIKU) with photography by Debiprasad Mukherjee
and with Haiku in English and Irish by Gabriel Rosenstock

Experimental Storytelling: A Timeline of Complementary Realities

Experimental Discourse by Jim Meirose with an essay

and with an interview by O:JA&L Associate Editor Warwick Newnham

2024

TATTOO: A Collaboration

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Flash Fiction by Richard Stimac

Topology

Poetry by Richard Stimac

Wolf

Poetry by Bruce McCrae

Pareidolia

Haibun by Paresh Tiwari

There Is a Season

Haibun & Short Poems by Steve Gerson

Everyday Life

Haiku by Hassane Zemmouri

Full Bright Autumn

Haibun & short-form Japanese poetry in English by Erin Castaldi

Overland Geometry

Haibun and tanka prose hybrids by Jacob Kobina Ayiah Mensah

Cosmic Crasher

Poetry by Sean G. Meggeson

Optimal or Not

Prose Poetry by Heikki Huotari

Letting the Light Work

Poetry by Larry D. Thomas

Dawns On Me: A Country

(Americana) Poetry by Lynn Potts

2025

One More Thing Without You

Haibun and Tanka Prose by Joshua Michael Stewart

little prose

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AS IF THIS LIGHT

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Oulipo Poetry by Ben Egerton

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Issues of Aesthetics and Meaning: Academic nonfiction by Anne Whitehouse (2021)

Part 4: Soldier, Sailor: Edgar Allen Poe and His Brother Henry

Issues of Aesthetics and Meaning: Academic nonfiction by Anne Whitehouse (2023)

Part 5: Edgar Allen Poe: A Gentleman's Education

Issues of Aesthetics and Meaning: Academic nonfiction by Anne Whitehouse (2025)

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A novella by Mick McGrath

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HAVE NOT

Haibun & short works by Steve Gerson

Nuance Singularity Triptych: Appendix III

Experimental fiction by Lukas Wood

The Outrun: Poems

Julie Anne Cullinane

The Apology

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imperfect vessel

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layered light

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FLASH FICTION: *Alive in the Flicker*
A Portable Workshop

PAMELYN CASTO

“Pamelyn Casto’s *Flash Fiction: Alive in the Flicker* is insightful, comprehensive, and brimming with inventive prompts and exercises to make your flash truly leap off the page.”

~ Dinty W. Moore

co-editor of the *Best of Brevity: Twenty Groundbreaking Years of Flash Nonfiction*

“Pamelyn Casto has been the most useful person in flash for years. This “portable workshop” proves it. *Flash Fiction: Alive in the Flicker* is an amazing flash compendium of everything for anyone who is interested the form. It’s also a writers’ workshop from prompts to where to send flashes. What’s not to like?”

~ Robert Shapard

co-editor of many Flash and Sudden Fiction anthologies, the latest are *Sudden Fiction Latina: Short Stories from the United States and Latin America* (2010) and *Flash Fiction International: Very Short Stories from Around the World* (2015)

“Pamelyn Casto’s valuable book *Flash Fiction: Alive in the Flicker* is an astonishing illumination—a total history of the form with essays, strategies and exercises; lessons, examples, how-to’s, markets, marketing, contests, anthologies, prompts, advice from pros, new directions (flash film!), reader psychology even—it is all here, with hundreds of internet links. There will never be a fuller single resource, with a good teacher’s encouraging tone about it, to boot. You can say flash fiction begins with Aesop; with Casto you can begin anew.

~Kent H. Dixon

translator of *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (2018) and co-editor of *Stone Wall Book of Short Fictions* (1976)

“Pamelyn Casto is a deep font of flash knowledge, and this portable workshop is a thorough, indispensable resource for writers and instructors who want to know more about what this thing called “flash” is, how to write it, and more important, how to read and understand it.”

~ Tara Lynn Masih

editor of *The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction* (2009) and founder of *The Best Small Fictions* (founded 2015)

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available now

“Like a flash of lightning between the clouds, we live in the flicker.”
—Joseph Conrad

FLASH FICTION ALIVE IN THE FLICKER

A PORTABLE WORKSHOP

PAMELYN CASTO

AMAZON REVIEWS

for Pamelyn Castos's *FLASH FICTION: Alive in the Flicker*

Daniel J. Nicholas

Reviewed in the United States on August 26, 2024

Verified Purchase

If I were to teach a class, this book would be required reading or a course outline for discussion. Bravo, Pamelyn! In addition, I look forward to your monthly blog to start up again.

David Lignell

Reviewed in the United States on November 23, 2022

Verified Purchase

Pamela Casto's new text, *Flash Fiction: Alive in the Flicker*, is a must have "portable workshop" workbook for anyone who desires to learn and practice the many forms of flash fiction.

W.R. Rodriguez

Reviewed in the United States on October 5, 2022

Verified Purchase

An authoritative overview of the genre, combined with practical advice on the writing process and an abundance of writing prompts.

Norman Jensen

Reviewed in the United States on April 2, 2024

Reading is great but hands-on prompts are even better.



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