

a range of jobs and relationships, and commenting on how others, including immigrants, manage this negotiation. This is an impressive, engaging collection on many levels, and I recommend it highly. □■

REVIEWED BY NICHOLAS KLACSANZKY

Haiku 2024: 100 Notable Ku From 2023, edited by Scott Metz and Lee Gurga (Modern Haiku Press, Champaign, IL: 2024). 132 pages, 4.2" x 5.5". Softback. ISBN: 978-0-9600855-7-6. \$10 from modernhaiku.org/mhbooks/Haiku2024.html.

Though the anthologies in this series from Modern Haiku Press can fit in your pocket, they pack a serious punch. With editors Scott Metz and Lee Gurga at the helm, the haiku selected are innovative and unique. Choosing 100 haiku to represent one year is difficult. However, I think the editors chose poems that push boundaries and show where English-language haiku can go.

Even though each haiku was selected as a representation of the year, I enjoyed some poems more than others. Here are some haiku that I thought exceeded my expectations that I would like to commentate on:

strawberry moon
trading heads
with Medusa

Mike Andreleczyk

With a creative pivot line and a resonant *kigo* mixed with a myth, surrealism takes ancestral history into account.

false spring —
the stars & stripes
pole dancing

Francine Banwarth

It starts with a common *kigo* but then takes the reader to an unexpected place that is both metaphorical and real.

fissures leaving the womb a skinless god

Rowan Beckett

Not only can this one-liner be read in multiple ways but it combines religion, pregnancy, and possibly biology or geology.

bite of the apple. And we never spoke again. Though, in the film

David Boyer

Possibly a nod to the Adam and Eve story, with a disjunctive style, the poet explores punctuation and left-out words.

paper wasp
no corset
thin enough

Randy Brooks

The juxtaposition of the paper wasp's sting and nest-making with the history of the corset creates a poignant reaction from the reader.

whales breaching the inside of a wish

Aidan Castle

The word "breaching" acts as a brilliant pivot word, which makes the haiku at once surreal and striking.

crows filing for custody of the last apocalypse

Cherie Hunter Day

This haiku can be read in a myriad of intriguing ways. Also, the sound and the imagery make for a pleasing read, despite the melancholic content.

summer blouse
bought for a song
purple finches

Barbara Fink

An excellent pivot line leads readers into thinking about questionable ethics, and the connection between humanity and nature.

zero
precipitation
the appetizers

Chris Gordon

A creative haiku that can be read in at least three ways. It has some humor but also depth when thinking about climate change and the cycle of precipitation.

small music kissing the mouth of the nursing mother

Lee Gurga

With a fine sense of sound and mysterious content, this haiku brings out a unique image that conjures original thoughts.

rainy night
nothing to be
but john malkovich

Charles Harper

Having seen the film, *Being John Malkovich*, it is easy to resonate

with this haiku. Even if the reader has not seen the film, the third-line curveball can easily work as a rare but relatable juxtaposition.

leave your name and number the stars

Mike White

Another fine monoku that can be read in several engaging ways. The standard answering machine prompt is turned on its head and reaches cosmic proportions.

There are many other haiku that resonated with me but there is not enough space to write about them here.

Haiku 2024 ends with an afterword by Peter Yovu called *Through a Dragonfly's Wings: 27 Ways to Look at Haiku 2024*. I believe it is titled as a homage to Wallace Steven's poem *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird*. Yovu, in almost prose poem fashion, writes about what the haiku is and could be. Strikingly, he employs the haiku contained in *Haiku 2024* as a way to create a type of essay-haibun. The style of writing drew me in and made me introspect about the essence of haiku.

Ultimately, I would say this anthology does well to demonstrate the forward-thinking haiku of 2023 in the English-language world. ◻■

REVIEWED BY JENNY WARD ANGYAL

The Alchemy of Love by Susan Burch (Brooks Books, Taylorville, IL: 2024). 48 pages, 4" x 5.75". Perfect softbound. ISBN 978-1-929820-31-3. \$15 from brooksbookshaiku.com.

The Alchemy of Love, Susan Burch's chapbook of 40 tanka, was a winner of the 2024 High/Coo Chapbook Competition sponsored by Brooks Books. While not haiku, the poems in this volume are "high/coo"—tiny poems that capture high moments of awareness,