

The San Francisco Haiku Anthology: Volume 2 is certainly a must for fans of the original 1992 work, as well as anyone invested in studying and collecting the work of a particular region. If you're planning to attend the 2025 Haiku North America Conference in San Francisco this year and you're newer to haiku, this anthology is an excellent way to familiarize yourself with some of the poets you will likely meet. (I plan to bring my copy with me for the poets to sign.) But even if you are not focused on the Bay Area as a source of interest, or preparing for HNA, the poems in this anthology are of such high quality that I would recommend it to anyone. This is not a novelty gift book; the city of San Francisco is more of an implicit presence than an explicit one. You can enjoy and learn from these haiku no matter where you live. □■

REVIEWED BY NICHOLAS KLACZANSKY

Memo to Warhol: A Collaboration of Art & Haiku in Color by Robert Epstein (haiku) and Ed Markowski (art). (Self-published: 2023). 135 pages, softcover. ISBN: 979-8862017885. \$18 from Amazon.com.

As a fan of Warhol's, my interest in this collection was immediately captured. I see the comparison between the art of Markowski and Warhol: both are bright and colorful, but Markowski leans more toward the abstract. The links between the art and poems are clear yet subtle. I was disappointed, though, that some of the images of the art in the book are pixelated and not sharp. Perhaps this was the intention of the artist as an aesthetic, but I am not sure.

I found many of the haiku personable, witty, and inventive. An illustration of a haiku that encompasses these three qualities is this one:

bronc buster —
sliding off the storyline
I wake up

Another haiku with a double meaning and which also relates to the theme of the book:

forced to move
I search for an exit
in the wall art

Some of the haiku hint at colors, and also the connection between humanity and nature:

floating
in his margarita
what's left of the sun

Humor is evident in many of the poems as well, with a touch of poignancy:

christmas requires some assembly

At times, the poet exposes personal struggles and his psychological successes resulting from them:

25 years sober —
Amber's still
My favorite color

In this example, I am uncertain why the poet used capitalization but it could be representative of his earlier work or another style.

On occasion, the poet also offers a unique perspective on mortality:

field & forest —
my late mother will be back
in 5 billion years

Sometimes, though, the poems veer into the didactic:

siesta —
when all else fails
be sure to take one

Or, the haiku seem to be leaning towards a motivational message:

homage to Monet —
I won't let my inner landscape
crust over

And, on occasion, the poems center on themes that could be characterized as generic:

desert rose —
sometimes beauty is right
underfoot

Overall, *Memo to Warhol: A Collaboration of Art & Haiku in Color* is an entertaining and intriguing homage to a legendary artist. In my opinion, there are a few moments where the poems could be more subtle or nuanced, and the art could perhaps be better displayed. Still, if you are a fan of Warhol and Robert Epstein's haiku, you will find food for thought while also exploring a range of emotions and sentiments. ■

REVIEWED BY DANIEL SHANK CRUZ

Two Seasons in Israel: A Selection of Peace and War Haiku by Rick Black (Turtle Light Press, Arlington, VA: 2024). 139 pages, softcover. ISBN: . 978-0-9748147-7-3. \$16.95 from turtlelightpress.com.

Two Seasons in Israel is an expanded version of Black's 2007 chapbook, *Peace and War: A Collection of Haiku from Israel*. Black,