November is a dark month. The days get noticeably shorter. Gusts of cold wind buffet our face. There can be a sense of resignation at this time as we ready ourselves for the long coming winter. In keeping with this mood, we will highlight several poems that address negative emotions that arise from life’s conflicts. Poetry isn’t just about flowers, puppies and sunshine. It reflects all of human experience and poets have not shied away from...
and sunshine. It reflects all of human experience and poets have not shied away from expressing anxiety, depression or the dark side of human nature.

custody battle...
the zigzag edges
of my nail

Haiku is often about capturing a specific moment or detail that by itself tells a story. We let the image say what does not need to be said. This is the classic case of "Show, don't tell." Aparna Pathak utilizes the technique masterfully in this poem. The zigzag edges of her nail tell us that she has been biting them while worrying about the fate of her children. The "zigzag" can also represent the back-and-forth arguments in the custody case. The anxiety is palpable here as the stakes are large and the outcome uncertain. The pause of the ellipsis emphasizes this uncertainty, as if the final decision in the battle is about to be announced.

dark shadows
trying to make sense
of her x-ray

In this poem by Tracy Davidson, we are looking at an x-ray image, probably a mammogram. The dark shadows are value-laden, standing for shadows in the room, on the image or a state of mind. Will the results show a tumor? We don't know. The phrase "trying to make sense" refers to the interpretation of the x-ray, but is also about the larger implications. It seems to beg other questions, like "Why should life do this to me?" or "What am I going to do now?"

daylight moon
the chrysanthemums
have covered your name

In this haiku by Ellen Compton, we have two unusually juxtaposed images, a moon visible during the day and a flower-covered tombstone. The chrysanthemums having overgrown the name of the deceased seems to suggest forgetting and the passage of time. Even the most cherished memories of our loved ones may fade eventually. This is a natural process and can be a good thing as the flowers indicate. Sometimes we need to move on, knowing that pain can be replaced by the good and the beautiful. The moon visible during the day however seems to symbolize what remains of the dead: our ancestors staring back down at us from the cosmos through eternity. (Dedicated to the memory of Ellen Compton, who passed away in July, 2021).

Dear Members,

Frogpond is currently open for submissions until November 30th.
We are open for submissions of haiku, senryu, haibun, and linked verse. As usual, linked forms submissions may include rengay, sequences, and tan-renga. For the first time, we are accepting split sequences under this category, as well.

Submissions may be sent via email or by Submittable. All submissions will receive a reply in 4-6 weeks. We are always open for submissions of essays, and we always accept books for review. More detailed information is available on our website.

Kind regards,
Tom Sacramona
Frogpond Editor

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Form and Content in Haiku

In all art, form must synergize with content for maximum impact. Form is your lighter fluid; content your box of fresh matches. How do we achieve that synergy when writing a haiku? By matching the length, shape, and precise wording of a poem to the image that inspired it.

The following haiku is one of my earlier efforts:

reading in the park
an autumn leaf volunteers
to be a bookmark

Would a 5-7-5er that rhymes work for a more serious haiku? No. The light content matches the whimsical form.

If we’re writing calm, quiet content, we need a calm, quiet form:

lone streetlight
a firefly
flickers back

Six words. A little alliteration to amplify the back-and-forth implied in the third line. The middle line, often the longest in haiku both ancient and modern, is only three syllables. The poem does what it needs to do and nothing else.

The following monoku came to me, hook, line, and sinker (that is, concept, form, and content) while I was watching Cocaine Cowboys on Netflix:

sliver moon the aftertaste of cocaine

One line, the words all flowing in a sudden cold rush.

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Some haiku are completely dependent on form:

dawn  dream
    fever  breaks

Depending on how you take in the words, this haiku could be read as “dawn fever dream breaks” or “dawn dream fever breaks,” mimicking the confused sensations of awaking from a dream and emerging from a fever. The haiku doesn’t work as a three-liner, one-liner, or anything else.

Here’s a fun and rewarding exercise: go through your old rejection emails. Find some haiku you were proud of that got turned down and try rewriting them. Keep the heart, the soul, the thesis of the 'ku intact, but change the form! Chances are, all the right pieces are there, they’re just not in the right order. Or maybe you need to add a word. Or remove one. Or move your fragment from the third line to the first. Or reshape it completely. Have fun with it, assuming it’s a fun haiku. Otherwise, get into whatever state of mind (or mindlessness) is most appropriate for your poem!

Previous publication credits:

“reading in the park” – Revista Haiku Award

“lone streetlight” – Resobox International Haiku Contest

(“sliver moon” and "dawn" appear here for the first time.)

Bio: Edward Cody Huddleston spends his days making radio and his nights making haiku. You can find him on Twitter @echuddleston. His debut collection, Wildflowers in a Vase, is available from Red Moon Press.

NEWS from the Regions

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

Thirty members attended our daytime “Zoom Moon Viewing” meeting, October 23, hosted by long-time member, Patrick Gallagher. He shared a few moon haiku written by Master Yosa Buson. Patrick had requested that members bring their favorite old-master moon haiku to share, and it was lovely to hear them.

This was followed by members’ moon haiku. Here are two:

late night party
the moon
unmasked

Kath Abela Wilson
outdoor dining
starting with the house salad
and the moon

Patricia J. Machmiller

Yuki Teikei is getting ready for its annual retreat, a 4-day Zoom Conference, November 5-8. We are delighted to have Robert Hass, former US Poet Laureate, as our featured speaker. Activities include a kukai with Emiko Miyashita, ginkō, workshops, an art project, and many opportunities to share haiku. The 2021 YTHS Anthology will be presented, and the Winners of the Kiyoshi and Kiyoko Tokutomi Memorial Haiku Contest will be revealed.

submitted by: Alison Woolpert

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Haiku San Diego 10 Oct 2021


After an introductory read-around, the first hour of our meeting was devoted to a Haiku Workshop, during which each attendee shared one haiku written to or inspired by previously designated prompts. Each haiku was then workshopped, and members were able to dialogue with the poet. We enjoy participating in this exercise now and then; it enables criss-cross dialogue and the appreciation of each poet's individual haiku voice and aesthetic.

The second hour of our meeting was devoted to our monthly Anonymous Haiku Workshop, with 10 haiku entered for critique. It is during this exercise that each poet practices gratitude for all the feedback offered.

Haiku San Diego meets the 2nd Sunday of each month. During HSD's November meeting, four of our members will share a formal powerpoint presentation of photos taken from a ginko they participated in during the summer, interspersed with haiku written as a result of the ginko. During December's HSD meeting we will welcome Carolyn Hall as our Guest Reader.

Naia
Haiku San Diego, moderator

---

Southern California Haiku Study Group
October Workshop

Members of the Southern California Haiku Study Group met on October 23, 2021 instead of their usual 3rd Saturday due to the Haiku North America conference, which many members attended. There were 19 poets present: Deborah P Kolodji, Naia, Joan Fingon, Jackie Chou, Sharon Yofan, Bonnie Santos, Kathabela Wilson, Claudia Poquoc, Michael Dylan Welch, Yvette Nicole Kolodji, Kimberly Esser, Diana Ming Jeong, Richard Matta, Patricia Wakimoto, Scott Galasso, Genie Nakano, Seretta Martin, Sharon Yee, and Susan Rogers.

After a read-around of haiku, Yvette Nicole Kolodji presented an interactive workshop on “Finding the Horror in Nature,” where she explored two types of potential prompts for
Finding the Horror in Nature, where she explored two types of potential prompts for Halloween and horror haiku. First, she explored Horror-themed place names with a video and photos, yielding the following prompts:

- Ghost Forest
- Phantom Lake
- Petrified Wood/Forest
- Devil's Kitchen
- Devil's Postpile
- Witches Rock
- Weeping Rock
- Blood Falls
- Skull Rock
- Deadman's Bay
- Death Canyon
- Death Valley

Then, through a series of nature videos and photos, she explored various creatures and plants with horrific names and/or habits:

- Horned Lizard
- Harvester Ants
- Vampire Squid
- Vampire Bats
- Vampire Ground Finch
- Goblin Shark
- Ghost Crab
Slime Mold  
Triplewart Sea Devils  
Zombie Ant Fungus  
Workshop attendees wrote haiku in the chat which were shared with all present. Then, we broke into breakout rooms to write rengay and many were written with a horror theme, but unfortunately 3 days too late for the Horror Rengay Contest sponsored by Otoroshi Journal.

Our next meeting will be our anthology launch, on November 20th.

October Meeting Notes

The Portland Haiku Group and Oregon HSA did not meet in October because many of us attended and or participated at the Haiku North America (HNA) zoom conference and at the Seabeck conference. Jacob Salzer was one of the presenters at the HNA conference. His theme was on the need to calm our minds which will open us to perceiving the moments that inspire haiku. His discussion was aided by his beautiful photographs of the Columbia gorge and other locations in the northwest area.

At the Seabeck conference in Washington, there were several PHG and Oregon HSA members attending: Jacob Salzer from Vancouver, Shelley Baker-Gard, Sam Blair from Astoria, Liz Gerlitz from Silverton, Carolyn Winkler, Ellen Akenbrock from Montana, Maggie Chula from Portland and Cathy Merritt from Portland. Jacob Salzer, Sam Blair and Maggie Chula were presenters at the conference. Maggie provided an excellent workshop on haibun, Sam’s incredible photos were used as prompts for writing poems and Jacob entertained us all with his guitar and piano music. Maggie also read from her latest publication In addition, Lisa Gerlits placed second in the kukai. Most importantly, we all had a great time socializing with other haiku poets from many lands.

Earlier in the month, on Saturday, October 23rd, Maggie Chula was the featured reader at the Portland Lan Su Chinese Garden. This was the launch for her new haibun memoir: Firefly Lanterns: Twelve Years in Kyoto. To order the book, please contact Maggie via email at margaretjchula@gmail.

Here are a couple of pictures from Seabeck:
The next face-to-face meeting for the Portland Haiku Group/HSA meeting will be November 14th from 1 pm to 3 pm at Shelley Baker Gard’s home. Attendees need to be vaccinated.

The leader for the meeting discussion on plans for 2021 & workshop will be Shelley Baker-Gard. Please bring one poem (haiku, senryu, tanka, 6 word story, haibun) for the workshop – there will not be a kukai at this meeting. Please RSVP to Shelley if you want to join us.– Phone Number and Address is 503-232-6560; 1647 SE Sherrett, Portland, Or 97202. We will also have limited zoom access.

The next Bi-monthly ZOOM meeting is Sunday 1/30/22 –at 2pm – 4 pm and will be hosted by Shelley Baker-Gard or a volunteer (not yet determined – feel free to volunteer). This every-other-month Zoom meeting time is set for the last Sunday of that month –Email Shelley, if you want to receive the invitation. The meeting is open to anyone in the Northwest, including Canada, or to others interested from different areas (email Shelley if you want to attend as the size is limited to 15 attendees).

Email Shelley Baker-Gard with your kukai entries by 1/20 (2-3 haiku/senyru/tanka or 1 haiku/senyru/tanka and 1 haibun).

Recent Meeting

Haiku Northwest held its monthly meeting on Saturday, October 9. The meeting was for locals only (Washington State residents), as we discussed organizational issues. Fifteen folks attended and discussed the following: incorporating the organization as a tax-exempt non-profit; related membership ideas; and upcoming officer elections. A full meeting report is available here

Upcoming: Our November meeting (Thursday, November 18th) will be from 7 pm to 9 pm PST, and will consist of a haiku workshop session. Folks should bring up to three haiku
Commencement Bay Haiku

Commencement Bay Haiku met via Zoom on Monday, October 25, from 5 to 7 pm. Attending were Aidan Castle, Diane Garcia, Emily Kane, Burk Ketcham, Zoe Myers, Judith Schallberger, Carmen Sterba, Kathleen Tice, and Richard Tice. Aidan and Zoe belong to Haiku Northwest, but had moved to South Puget Sound and joined our group for the first time. We were asked to bring some Halloween-related work of our own or others. For example, Kathleen shared one by Enomoto Seifu (1732-1815) from Makoto Ueda’s Far from the Field:

blissfully lying
under the falling blossoms
a skeleton

Then we shared additional haiku and senryū for critique. Diane brought the most interesting and complex one: a double haiku sequence, with one starting haiku, then three haiku on the left and three on the right, ending with one haiku. The form has a name and an article about it, but we couldn’t remember what it’s called or where the article is printed. We ended by discussing our writing practices during the pandemic.

submitted by Richard Tice

Barbara Hay

Austin Haiku Group

The Austin Haiku Group met on Halloween Sunday, October 31 at Batch Craft Beer and Kolaches in East Austin to enjoy all three of those treats over the course of our midday meeting. In attendance were (from left to right in the photo): Agnes Eva Savich, Allyson Whipple, Christine Wenk-Harrison, Claire Vogel Camargo, and Christa Pandey. We wrote a collective 15 tan-renga to sharpen our skills, after many of us
sharpen our skills, after many of us had attended the HNA conference workshop earlier in the month. Our next meeting will be Sunday December 12 at Illuminate Coffee Bar in Northwest Austin. Interested local attendees should email Agnes.

Now Available!

A Charm of Finches: HSA SW Region 2021 Members Anthology is available for pre-order by emailing SW regional coordinator Barbara Hay for payment options.

This beautiful compilation of haiku and photographs from 35 poets in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah, edited by Agnes Eva Savich will be published November 15 by The RoadRunner Press

64 pages
Available for USD $12.95 plus shipping.

submitted by Agnes Eva Savich
Austin, TX, USA

25th Autumn Haiku Conference

South Region haiku poets are celebrating in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas at the 25th autumn haiku conference at the Arlington Hotel. If you didn’t know about it, and
wish to join us Saturday, Nov. 6th, come on over. The conference is free compliments of the Arkansas Haiku Society. No registration is required. Come join us at the Arlington Resort and Spa, 239 Central Avenue, third floor, in the Hickory Room. Telephone number 800-643-1502. Call 501-767-6096 to ask for an update as activities are subject to change.

For those who enjoy the excitement of a casino, Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort has broken the glass ceiling – Move Over Las Vegas!. Howard Lee Kilby will be happy to give a tour of Oaklawn. After all, he was an employee for 40 years.

The South Region will have a new South Region Coordinator after the election this month. I hope a certain lady will agree to serve. She would be a perfect SRC.

In closing, I want to thank these courageous haiku poets who agreed to serve as Haiku Ambassadors during the great year 2021.

ARKANSAS: Judy Michaels, M.D.

Kentucky: Clay D. Marcum

Louisiana: June Rose Dowis

Tennessee: Jim Haynes

I was so happy to read a message from HSA President Jay Friedenberg wherein he said the Haiku Ambassador experiment could go forward.

“ah, but a man’s reach should exceed his grasp, or what’s a heaven for?”  -- Robert Browning, 1812 – 1889

Kentucky

C.D. Marcum is an author and poet from Berea, KY where he lives with his wife in the foothills of Appalachia. He has an M.F.A. from the Bluegrass Writers Studio and was formerly the editor of the literary journal "Jelly Bucket." His focus was mostly fiction, but his minimalist aesthetic continued to shrink his word count until he became a haiku poet. He suffered a traumatic brain injury in 2016, and has found haiku good medicine indeed. Like all good medicine, he believes it is best shared. You can contact him by email.

Appalachia...
always looking
over my shoulder

Louisiana

All seven members participated in this month’s email haiku critique in some way. Our discussion questions: How often do you write haiku? What motivates you? Do you write on "schedule" or "wait on the Muse?" Are you satisfied with your system? Here are some tidbits:

My writing is like the moon, it waxes and wanes. I’ve never had a schedule for writing haiku, but most of the time haiku thoughts come to me in the solitude of morning.

I do not write "on a schedule" for I never know when an "aha" moment will pop up. I try to be open and not closed to the beauty that is so easy for me to take for granted.

When the Muse calls, I’m happy if I know where my notebook and pen are. Voila my
When the Muse calls, I'm happy if I know where my notebook and pen are. Voila my "system."

Muse? Schedule? Satisfied? I've been writing haiku longer than some of you have been alive. Tried so many variations of all of the above! Recently a haiku friend sent me "Haiku Techniques" by Jane Reichhold (as published in Autumn 2000 issue of Frogpond). For about a week I wrote a haiku a day, experimenting with some of the 23 techniques listed. I'm still writing and experimenting, but not always each day.

My favorite breath poems to write are the ones that take my breath away and I can't not write them down. Those precious moments are treasures and I look back on them as old friends. I do not write every day, but on the days I am inspired to write, I write gobs.

submitted by June Rose Dowis

Tennessee

I'm Jim Haynes and I'm excited!

Sixty years ago, the Air Force sent me to Japan for a two-year tour of duty. I was not prepared for the change that awaited me. I studied spoken Japanese and Zen Buddhism. I toured the country. I taught a class in English conversation for members of the Japanese Air Force. I joined social groups as available and generally embraced the Japanese culture. When I came back to the U.S., I began to realize that I had morphed into a true “Nippon-ophile.”

As time passed, I became interested in Kanji as calligraphy and one-breath poems. For many years, I've written Haiku, Senryu, and free-form poems after morning meditation. I'm excited now because the HSA has started a new test project, naming one person in each state to act as an Ambassador for Haiku. I am honored to be the ambassador for the state of Tennessee. Several different approaches are being studied for this activity. If you have any ideas about how we can increase our membership please contact the following: Howard Lee Kilby at hkilby@hotmail.com or call 501-767-6096.

_________________________

In Closing, it is an honor to serve the Haiku Society of America as a regional coordinator. It’s a lot of fun. I wish the new South Region Coordinator GOOD LUCK.

Howard Lee Kilby
501-767-6096

Bryan Rickert

Illinois State Poetry Society-Haiku Society of America Haiku Chapter
Zoom chapter meeting, October 24, 2021.
The ISPS-HSA Haiku Chapter held its Zoom meeting on Sunday, Oct. 24. We had postponed our normal third Sunday meeting because the Haiku North America Zoom conference took place on the third weekend of October, and many of us attended that conference. Thus, our haiku chapter meeting was a week later. Those who attended were: Jo Balistrieri, Tom Chockley, Janice Doppler, Susan Farner, Margie Gustafson, Cielo Jones, Wilda Morris, and Leslie Peet.

Then we moved on to the workshop conversation of draft haiku from participants, who wanted feedback regarding their poems. Each haiku was presented anonymously and discussed. Then the haiku poet had the chance to give his or her feedback about the haiku. We also asked the poet to tell us about the “haiku moment” that had been the impulse for the haiku.

We had time to talk about new haiku journals for further reading and enjoyment. We also spent time talking about highlights of the Haiku North America conference.

**Our next Haiku Chapter Zoom Meeting: Sunday, December 12, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CST.** The deadline for RSVPs to attend will be Tuesday, December 7. Contact Tom Chockley to attend the Zoom meeting and to receive further information.

**Ohaio-ku Study Group**

The Ohaio-ku Study Group met Saturday, October 9th, from 10am to noon via Zoom facilitated by Nicky Gutierrez. The following Ohio poets were in attendance: Valentina Ranaldi-adams, Jeffiner Hambrick, Joe McKeon, Matthew Markworth, and Nicky Gutierrez, Jill Lange. The following visiting poets were in attendance: Janice Doppler, Ruth Holzer, Michael Dylan Welch, Julie Schwerin, and Sarah Metzler.

We started our meeting with announcements and had general discussion. We then did our kukai. Our kukai theme was “anything to do with October.” Top poems were Sarah Metzler in third, Joe McKeon in second, and Nicky Gutierrez in first. In lieu of book awards, they received a rousing round of applause! Congratulations!

Our next meeting will be held **Saturday, November 13th**, on zoom 10 AM -12 PM. Our kukai theme will be “use leaf peeping in the haiku.”

Please check the Ohio Haiku Facebook page for meeting information. Or for out-of-staters who wish to join us, please contact Nicky Gutierrez.

All are welcome! We’d love to see you there.

**Charlotte Digregorio**

Charlotte Digregorio recently judged the Arizona State Poetry Society Haiku Contest (5-7-5). She is the author of *Haiku and Senryu: A Simple Guide for All.*

Charlotte edits The Daily Haiku and many other poetic forms on her [blog](#), featuring poets from 61 countries. Currently, she is accepting previously-published, holiday-themed haiku, senryu, and other forms for November and December. You may contact her with a submission of just one poem to be considered.
"One Step Beyond" Open Mic Zoom Event
Saturday Dec 11, 2021 at 2:00p EST

Featured Reader / Presenter: Terri Hale French

Open Mic Reading & Kukai Contest with prizes

Registration: Please email Michael Henry Lee. at your earliest convenience. Prompt responses are appreciated. Note: The Zoom link will be emailed to you a few days prior to the event.

Featured Reader/Presenter: Terri's well-known stature as a writer, editor, photographer, artist and traveler fits into our theme as we celebrate "steps taken" in the past, in the now, in the future. Maybe we can take it "one step beyond" together!

Kukai Contest: Submit your ONE best "One Step Beyond" haiku offering via email for consideration. Kukai Submission period is from November 13th thru November 20th. Note: Voting by blind ballot will begin 11/27/21. Only those who have submitted a kukai will receive the ballot. Voting ends on 12/3/2021. The top three vote-getters will be awarded a jolly kukai sur-prize during the event.

Open Mic Reading: Each reader will have a maximum of 5 minutes to share their work on the theme of their choice. Non-reader observers are encouraged to attend.

Looking forward to a great event sharing haiku and camaraderie with all of you as we wind up another year. Let's make it a great one!

Sincerely,

Michael Henry Lee
HSA SE Regional Coordinator

Broader Haiku NEWS

Charlotte seeks Holiday Haiku
Charlotte Digregorio recently judged the Arizona State Poetry Society Haiku Contest (5-7-5). She is the author of *Haiku and Senryu: A Simple Guide for All*.

Charlotte edits *The Daily Haiku* and many other poetic forms on her blog, featuring poets from 61 countries. Currently, she is accepting previously-published, holiday-themed haiku, senryu, and other forms for November and December. You may contact her with a submission of just one poem to be considered at c-books@hotmail.com.

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**2021 Backbone Press Haiku Book Contest is now open for submissions!**

Last year, Backbone Press held a haiku book contest that was a huge success! We published winner, Susan Antolin's manuscript, *The Years That Went Missing*, and runner up, Renee Owen's manuscript, *This One Life*. Our long-term goal is to make this an annual contest if we can raise funds to sustain it. We are holding the contest again this year.

Poets in the Continental US. and Canada with or without previously published books of haiku are welcome to submit. A prize of $100 and 20 author copies will be awarded to one winner.

A submission of 40-60 haiku via our Submittable Page is recommended. The author’s name and contact information must be omitted from the manuscript.

**Fee:** $20 per submission; multiple submissions are permitted.

**Judge:** previous winner, Susan Antolin

**Deadline:** December 21st.

**Backbone Press**
PO Box 51483
Durham, NC 27717-1483
backbonepoetry@gmail.com

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*The Charles Dickson Chapbook Award*
sponsored by the Georgia Poetry Society in honor of haiku poet Charles Dickson

Prize: $250 and 25 copies of the winning chapbook. Only one prize is awarded.

ENTRY FEE INFORMATION
1. The entry fee for GPS members is $10 for one manuscript. The fee for non-members is $25 for one manuscript.
2. All fees are paid via PayPal to the Georgia Poetry Society. We do not accept cash, checks, or money orders as payment.
3. Payment must accompany submission.
4. Life members of the Georgia Poetry Society pay no entry fees to enter GPS contests.

The entry fee entitles all submitters to a copy of the winning chapbook.

Length and form: Open.

Dickson was a haiku poet and we wish to encourage manuscripts in Asian forms, but this is not a requirement and manuscripts are welcome in any form.

Theme: Any.

Submissions Period: October 1 at 12:01 AM to November 15, 2021 at 11:59 PM. Entries received outside this timeframe will not be accepted. The winner will be announced at the January 2022 GPS quarterly meeting.

See the website rules for particulars.

A Charm of Finches:
HSA SW Region 2021 Members Anthology

is available for pre-order by emailing SW regional coordinator Barbara Hay for payment options.

This beautiful compilation of haiku and photographs from 35 poets in Arizona, New
Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah, edited by Agnes Eva Savich will be published November 15 by The RoadRunner Press

64 pages

Available for USD $12.95 plus shipping.

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**2022 Calendar of Art and Haiku**

Annette Makino has published a 2022 calendar of her haiga featuring peaceful landscapes and animals. She created the Japanese-inspired collages in this calendar with hand-painted and torn washi papers and other found papers.

These mini wall calendars are **$12 each plus tax and shipping.**

Order through [Makino Studios](#)

Please contact [Annette Makino](#) with any questions.