



a distant star



a distant star

*...a collection of haiku
written by members of the
Renaissance Institute
in workshops on
Writing and Sharing Haiku*

1995—1997

These haiku were compiled from several workshops at the Renaissance Institute on Writing and Sharing Haiku. Special thanks to Jeff Witkin of the Haiku Society who inspired us with his talks about Zen. In essence, a haiku is a very short, concise poem expressing a significant image or experience. We strive to communicate a heightened awareness of a moment in nature, or human nature, compressed into the fewest words possible. Haiku originated in Japan centuries ago. Today, they are written all over the world.

Anita Sadler Weiss

*I pluck the strings
a distant star trembles*

Margaret Doyle

*spring air
lifts my collar*

Margaret Doyle

*asleep on the grate
wrapped in brown cardboard—he dreams
of two stadiums—*

Carolyn Ritter

*Venus shines
unaware
of budget cuts*

Nancy Rouse

in the woods

tangled branches above me

I paint their shadows

Rhoda Oakley

the old elm

leaning against the roof

sound of the buzz saw

Anita Sadler Weiss

maple leaves

falling with the rain

slippery sidewalks

Nancy Rouse

full moon

on the parched desert

a kangaroo rat hops

Roger Lerwill

thunder

summer rain

sweeps the battlefield

Margaret Doyle

slanting rains

transform roadways—

dark mirrors

Gwen Gibson

*geese smudge the autumn sky
faint honking
golfers stop—*

John McCauley

*withered vine
hard green tomatoes
overhead honking*

Nancy Holden

a senryu

sunset in the churchyard

green mats—a row of chairs

widow in black

fresh flowers, cold earth,

darkness—evensong

Nancy Rouse

*the canoe glides
almost scraping bottom
low tide in "the gut"*

Rhoda Oakley

*time after
rain tapping on the roof
we lie listening*

Anita Sadler Weiss

*summer garden
among the beets
a goldfinch*

Nancy Holden

*the trimmed firethorn
finds its own way*

Mary Jane Klein

Yellowstone

a rengay

*The river runs serene,
splashes stir the silence—
fish and pawing bison.*

*Crashing river plunges—
foam gold in the sun.*

*Smoke lifts from smoldering trees,
cooled by invading mist—
obscuring osprey's flight.*

*Velvet on antler horns,
hardening in winter.
Boy rubs downy cheek,*

*Swan brakes, thrusts feet ahead—
splashdown.*

*Wildflowers and lichens
cling at glacier's edge—
winter survivors.*

Roger Lerwill

*arches of color
across the sky
rainstorm*

Beth McLeod

*violin played
music has ended
still I hear it*

Beth McLeod

robin pecks pyrocantha
red fruit bulges
red breast

Roger Lerwill

hydrangea vines
climb my latticed fence to bloom
on my neighbor's side

Carolyn Ritter

haiku panic—

moon nowhere in sight

haiku panic—

astronauts on the moon

Irv Steinbach

a man's heart

flooded with music

now silent keys—resonate

Anita Sadler Weiss

*crows in the street
on Halloween
already dressed*

Irv Steinbach

*Grandfather clock
hands up
Happy New Year*

NancyRouse

*the sun shines
on the other side
of the shadow*

Gwen Gibson

*plum tree's pungent scent
the sprig he planted
survives him*

Anita Sadler Weiss

*the scent of Tabu
stabbing my heart
lousy bitch—*

Irv Steinbach

*somewhere in the room
sound of silk whispering
old man smiles*

John McCauley

Manokin River
snaking through the swamp
water nursery

Nancy Rouse

yew tree tall and full—
prized for wood and bark
red X of loggers

Roger Lerwill

*the half-open door
slowly closes after you
light narrows—is gone*

Margaret Doyle

*red purse
falling to the ground
disgorging a life*

Mac McAvinue

on the beach

alone

with shadows

Mac McAvinue

wisteria vine

high in old sycamore

bulldozers wait

Nancy Rouse

fog quiet
frog croaks
rain drops

Nancy Rouse

on silent wings above
movement caught his eye
now the frog is gone

Terry Maguire

spring dusk
behind an open window
a white curtain moves

Margaret Doyle

March winds roaring
safe in a corner
a magnolia blooms

Lorna Catling



J^oAtwater
PUBLICATIONS