

Cuccagna



Cuccagna

senryu italiani scelti
e tradotti da

Italian senryu selected
and translated by

Valeria Simonova Cecon

Cuccagna — a fabled place where one eats, drinks, and enjoys oneself;
“a garden of earthly delights.”

An Italian senryu group, whose members are represented in these pages.

CUCCAGNA
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otata

Cuccagna

Antonietta Losito

Ai ladri chiede
di portare via anche
sua suocera

he invites the thieves
to take her too
mother-in-law

Santino Cicala

*sbrigo faccende
e mi resta il tempo
per la tristezza*

completed
my to-do list —
time left for sadness

Elisa Allo

*vecchie riviste...
il senso della vita
in un cruciverba*

old magazines —
the meaning of life
in a crossword

Ezio Infantino

*al funerale
con la musica struggente
piangono tutti*

at the funeral
when the music is poignant
everyone cries

Antonietta Losito

*Fontana di Trevi-
un mendicante s'appropria
d'altrui desideri*

Trevi Fountain -
a beggar steals
other's wishes

[Translator's note: the beggar is "lifting" coins from the well-known fountain.]

Vincenzo Adamo

*occupato
il bagno pubblico-
a colpi di tosse*

*occupied
by coughing —
a public toilet*

[Translator's note: the toilet's lock is missing or broken, so one signals.]

Angiola Inglese

*studio di papà-
ancora l'odore
del suo giornale*

dad's study -
that lingering smell
his newspapers

Eufemia Griffio

*all'autogrill
in fila, alla cassa
un pokemon rosa*

highway rest area -
waiting in the queue
a pink pokemon

Ezio Infantino

*al cimitero
sulle tombe più vecchie
fiori di plastica*

at the cemetery
on the older graves
plastic flowers

Giusy Cantone

*Come una bocca
le fauci di un agave
di Toshio Saeki*

like a mouth
on Toshio Saeki's drawings -
the jaws of agave

[Translator's note: for the agave see the cover image; for the artist's startling erotic image, you're on your own.]

Elisa Bernardinis

*pioggia d'autunno -
da gatto imparo l'arte
del sonnellino*

autumn rain —
I learn the art of napping
from the cat

[Translator's note: The poem is a *honkadori* (allusive variation) on a poem by Murata Shugyo — *learning/ the art of clinging to life/ from the weeds.*]

Corrado Aiello

*Al trigesimo
osservo la sua foto
più da vicino*

at the 30th-day Mass
I take a closer look
at her picture

[Translator's note: the poem refers to the Mass customarily offered thirty days after a death.]

Antonietta Losito

*Al primo appuntamento
tira fuori il suo bastone
e scatta un selfie*

on the first date
he takes out his stick
and takes a selfie

