

# LISTEN TO THE LANDSCAPE



haiku by Linda Nemec Foster | images by Dianne Carroll Burdick

forewords by Jill Enfield and Diane Wakoski





# LISTEN TO THE LANDSCAPE

Edited by  
Linda Nemecek Posner

Musical Landscapes by  
Dianne Carroll Sundick

WILLIAM D. ECKHART PUBLISHING COMPANY

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49508, U.S.A.





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Haiku by

Linda Nemec Foster

Hand-colored photographs by

Dianne Carroll Burdick

WILLIAM B. EERDMANS PUBLISHING COMPANY

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN / CAMBRIDGE, U.K.

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To my mother, Shirley Anne Schemanske Carroll,  
and to the memory of my father, Bruce Kenneth Carroll Sr.

— DCB

To Deborah Nemec and Therese Becker,  
sister, friend, lovers of the good earth.

— LNF





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## A NOTE ON THE IMAGES

One of the keys to haiku poetry is that the first impression of the poet is very important. Poets take a subject from their daily life and add local color to create freshness.

This rings true when looking at Dianne Carroll Burdick's images. She photographs what is around her in her everyday life: a walkway to the beach, a group of trees, an old house by the side of the road. However, she takes these images out of the realm of reality and transforms them into memory. By hand painting black and white photographs, Dianne Carroll Burdick has taken us a step away from a literal meaning and into our own mind's eye.

JILL ENFIELD

author of *Photo-Imaging: A Complete  
Guide to Alternative Processes*

## A NOTE ON THE HAIKU

Land and water play a substantial role in this book. Linda Nemec Foster uses these landscapes as if they were her extended mother. She acutely observes “How the end of the ocean/Becomes land” — the doubleness of knowing how to look inward, back toward the terrain, after so completely looking outward, over the water. For her, the view represents return, not escape or disappearance. Land and water mysteriously become the same medium.

Quintessential to these poems is their sense of acceptance, coming from identification with the landscape. These are poems to read both when you yourself have accepted the inevitable and when you are grappling and fearful of it.

In the spirit of Asian poetry, where the insentient natural world is used to represent the depth of emotional landscape and engagement, Linda Nemec Foster’s haiku display her emotional nativity. In this respect, she suggests how wind and dunes, trees and water shape a person’s tranquility and contain its turmoil.

DIANE WAKOSKI

author of *The Butcher’s Apron* and *Emerald Ice*



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

For encouragement and direction, my thanks to John M. Carney, professor of art in photography at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. For instruction on color theory, my thanks to Richard Stien. For making it all happen, I thank Sandra DeGroot and Eerdmans Publishing for supporting our vision. For digital imaging, promotional materials, advice, support, and patience, my deepest appreciation goes to my husband, Rob Burdick.

DIANNE CARROLL BURDICK

My special thanks to Sandra DeGroot, the project director for this book at Eerdmans Publishing, for her patience, guidance, and understanding; and to my husband, Tony Foster, whose amazing love supports every word I write, every image I envision.

LINDA NEMEC FOSTER





LISTEN TO THE LANDSCAPE

ANOTHER MYSTERY

Dawn or dusk, almost  
The same. Each day's birth and death  
Edged with gold, calm blue





### **DIVINING ROD**

Between ocean and  
Forest, between land and sky,  
I point the way home





**NEW LANGUAGE**

Define bare trees — faith,  
And the smallest of leaves — hope,  
Whisper of wind — love





### THREE WORLDS

Dark brown earth, our home

Cobalt blue sea, our journey

Gauze clouds, our longing



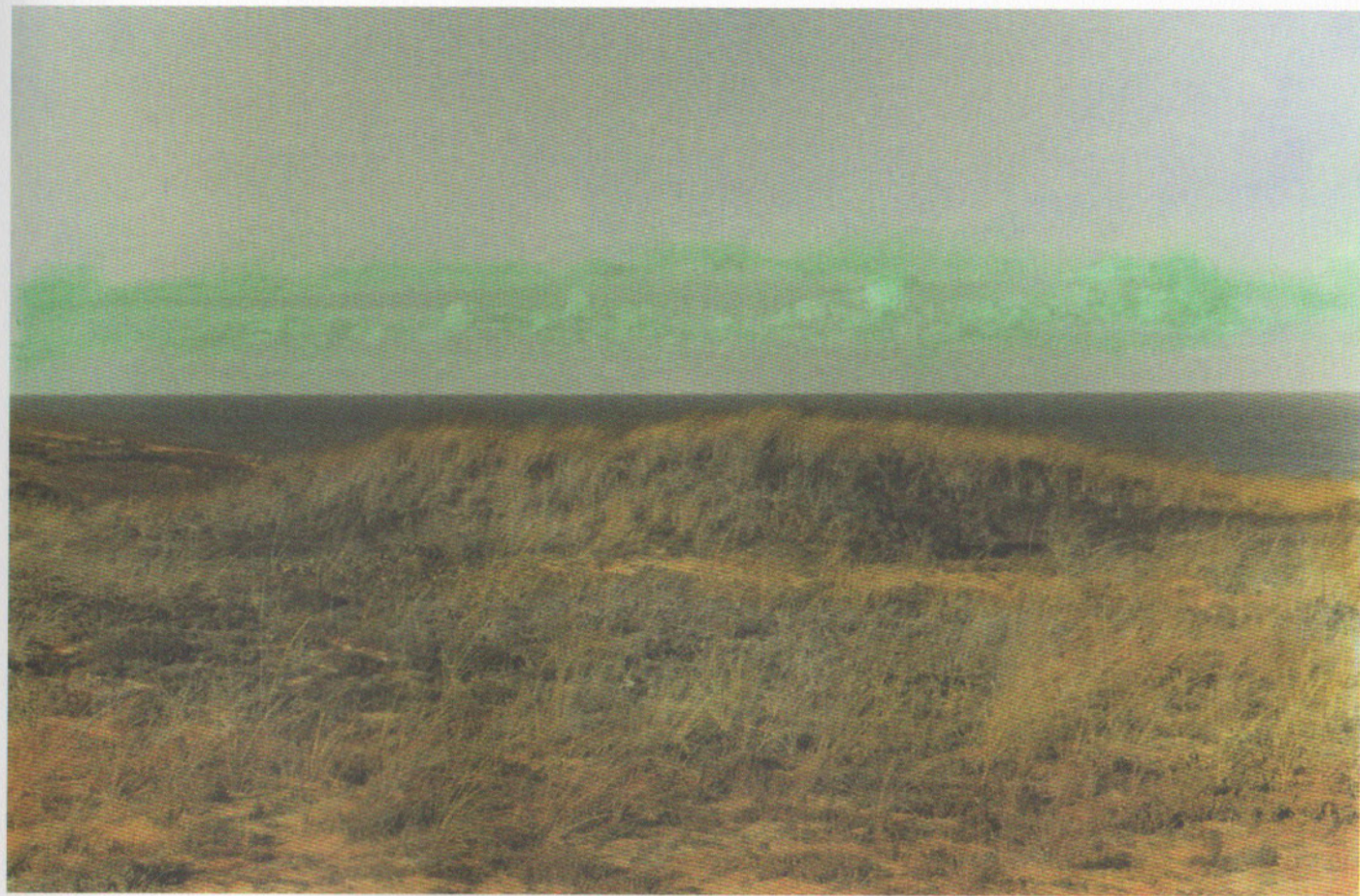




**HILL KISSING THE OCEAN**

Close your eyes, deep friend,  
Feel my lips of grass brush past  
All fear of water







### SEPARATION

On the left, mere dreams

Blue-white sea murmuring waves

On the right, just us







## THE FENCE

Necklace of landscape

Charting your destination

Home beyond earth, sky





**THE SECRET**

Hushed words bend with dawn  
Away from the wildflowers'  
Gossip. Clouds hear songs







**NEW WORLD**

You see the new world  
How the end of the ocean  
Becomes land, pure flight

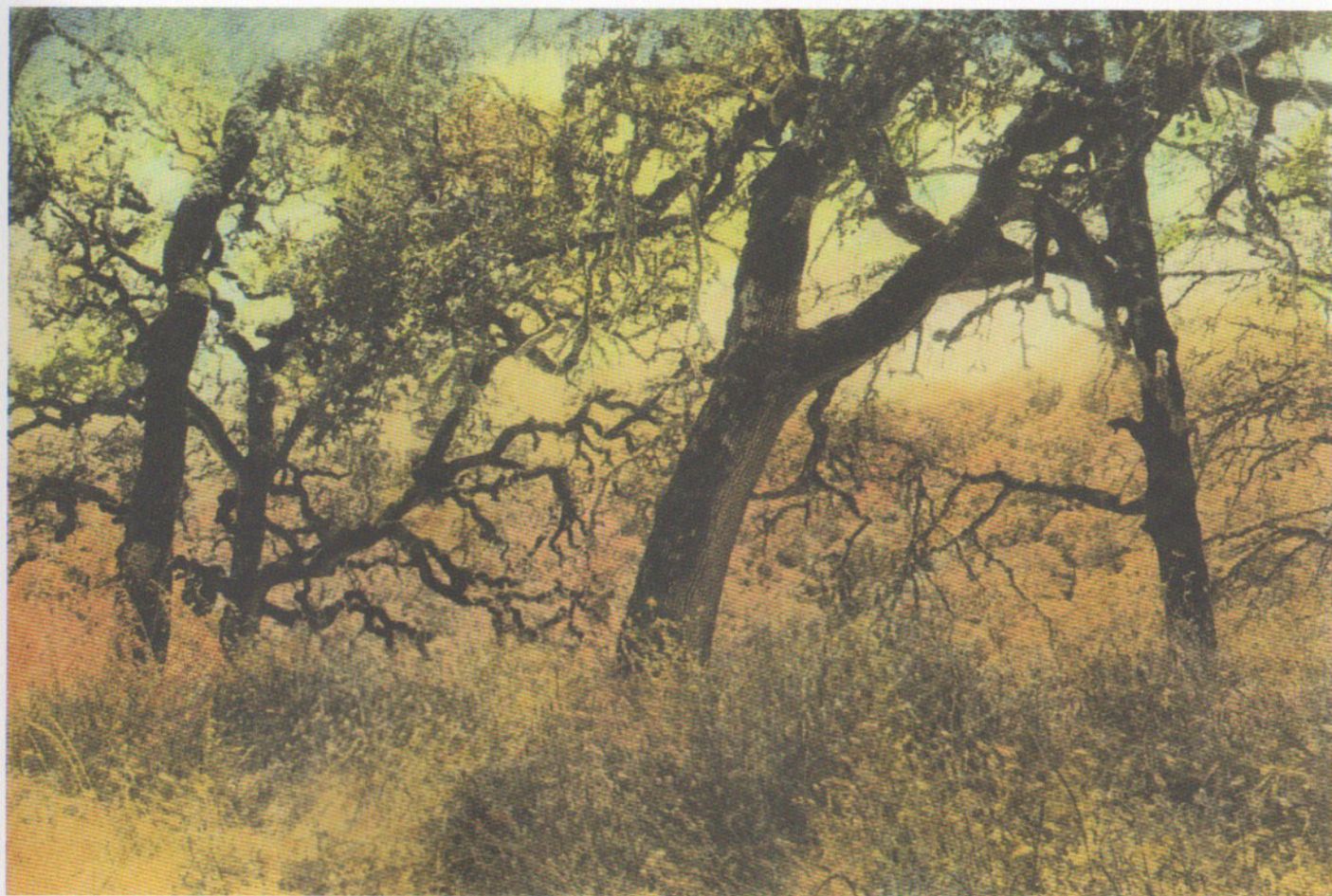




## DANCE

Shadows dance with sun  
Outstretched arms that touch light once  
And then, hold the air



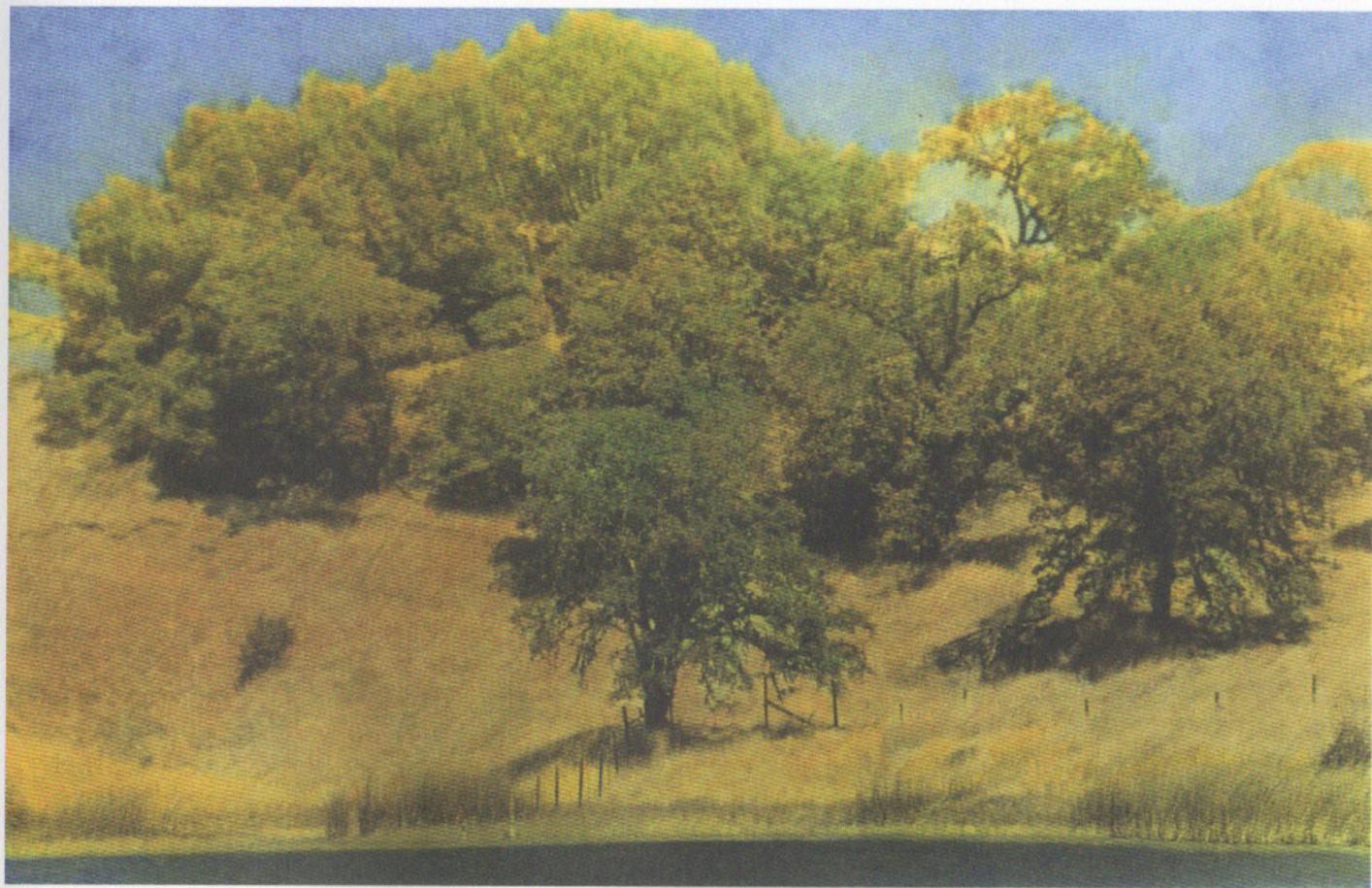




### **FAMILY TREES**

Trees wait in silence  
Like loved relatives we've lost  
Rare leaves we can't find







## THE WISDOM OF WILDFLOWERS

Always thrive where least

Expected: above the sea

Small lives on the edge







THE DREAM OF TREES

To walk like the scarves  
Of clouds, to abandon land  
And never return







**ELECTRIC SKY**

You cannot turn off  
This light. Streams of blue, yellow  
Monet's sky plugged in







**CLOUD'S EDGE**

Like waves in the sky

Clouds mirror the hushed landscape

Sky's edge, water's shore







**PLAYGROUND**

She wants to run, twirl  
Follow the path all the way  
To her past: those trees







**MYSTERY**

East/west, north/south don't  
Matter. Could be sage, wild rose  
Or what the heart sees







### FRIENDSHIP

Hidden where we know  
It's waiting — overgrown path,  
Cool dusk, small birdsong







**GUARDIAN**

I rise from earth, I  
Shelter all things you give me,  
I keep the secrets







## **HARVEST**

The blue becomes mauve  
Becomes purple then lush green  
Waiting for your hands







**WHERE SUNLIGHT SLEEPS**

Not in sapphire seas  
Or emerald earth, but dark  
Amber of fall leaves







## MEMORY

Collect the songs from  
Childhood. Don't forget the words  
That turn straw to gold







### THREE SISTERS

They don't need music  
To dance, only the faintest  
Hint of blue to sing







## REMEMBRANCE

Small house of blue sky  
Comfort each soul and give it  
New songs, new silence





**STRANDS**

Gilded strands of light  
That caress the sky's neckline —  
Pale, luminous skin



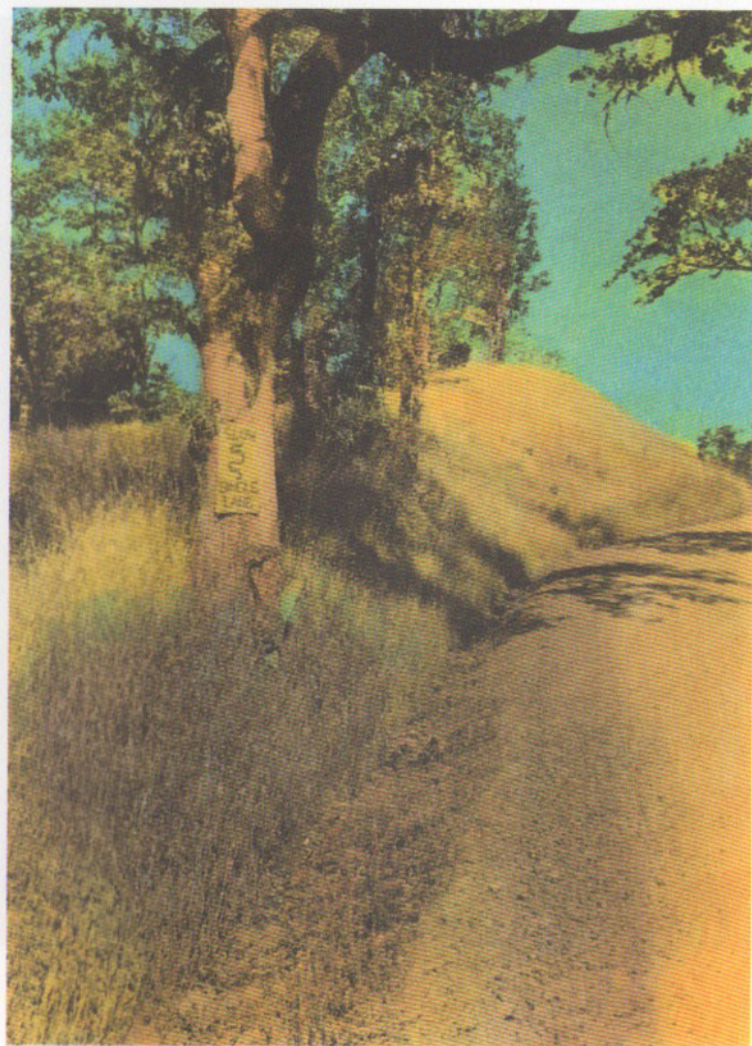




## THE ROAD TO THE FATHER'S HOUSE

It weaves its way through  
Your life. The quiet path filled  
With trees and shadows





**SHADOWS OF TREES**

Their thin shadows spread  
So delicately, as if  
The ground turns to lace







**OPEN FIELD**

Nothing to hold us

Back — except ourselves. Embrace

That green wall of trees







## A NOTE ON THE HAND-COLORING PROCESS

I photographed all the images with Kodak 35mm black & white film using Nikon lenses on Nikon NgoS cameras. I then printed the images on Kodak Professional Ektalure G Lustre fiber-base black & white paper, a cream-white fine-grain double weight luster paper that is no longer made. When the prints were dry, I treated the paper with an oil-base solvent and colored the images with Marshall and Prismacolor colored pencils.

DIANNE CARROLL BURDICK







"What a calming tonic, this collaborative gathering of luminous words and delicious images — reading and viewing *Listen to the Landscape* makes me feel the way I feel after a deep massage. There's a rinsing out of the senses that occurs, a cleansing away of the world's sorrow and clutter. Breathe, slow down, feel drenched in restorative attention once again."

— **Naomi Shihab Nye**  
author of *You & Yours*

"The visual-verbal dance enacted in *Listen to the Landscape* is one of clarity and grace, and the seamless blending of two mediums makes this a deeply affecting collaboration. I am particularly struck by how the poems and the photographs — wonderful in their own right — assume even greater resonance in proximity to each other."

— **Jack Driscoll**  
author of *How Like an Angel*

"Linda Nemec Foster's haiku and Dianne Carroll Burdick's photographs illuminate each other and the trees, hills, open fields, wildflowers, and weather that shine forth from the pages of this quiet, remarkable book."

— **Nancy Willard**  
author of *In the Salt Marsh*



"*Listen to the Landscape* has been for me a welcome quieting of the mind and a reaffirmation of the spiritual depth of nature. This book is a gift."

— **William Heyen**  
2004 National Book Award finalist

"A poet whose words are like the haunting melodies made by a reed pipe, Linda Nemec Foster writes the lyrics to Dianne Carroll Burdick's visual compositions. *Listen to the Landscape* is a book that illustrates in word and image Robert Frost's definition of a poem as 'a momentary stay against confusion.'"

— **Judith Ortiz Cofer**  
author of *Call Me Maria*

"Hand-coloring is an old craft, rarely applied to nature. In this lovely book Dianne Carroll Burdick has applied her painterly eye to interpret the natural subjects she loves."

— **Annie Griffiths Belt**  
National Geographic photographer

"Dianne Carroll Burdick photographs what is around her in everyday life — a walkway to the beach, a group of trees, an old house by the side of the road. However, she takes these images out of the realm of reality and transforms them into memory that enhances the haiku and brings the poetry to life."

— **Jill Enfield**  
author of *Photo-Imaging*

**LINDA NEMEC FOSTER** has written six other collections of poetry, including *Living in the Fire Nest* and *Amber Necklace* from Gdansk. In 2003 she was selected to be the first poet laureate of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**DIANNE CARROLL BURDICK** is a freelance photographer whose work has been exhibited throughout Michigan and as far away as Australia.

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