

A dark, moody photograph of a white egg on a wooden surface. The egg is positioned in the lower-left quadrant, resting on a dark wooden ledge or table. The background is very dark and out of focus, showing some vertical lines that might be part of a chair or another piece of furniture. The lighting is low, creating a somber and contemplative atmosphere.

TONY QUAGLIANO

PICTOGRAPHS

pictographs

a posthumous collection of the haiku of
Tony Quagliano

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postscripts volume I

Second Printing

evening sun
in the bare *hau* tree
the pictograph for red

his house aflame
Basho writing
by firelight

one still treescape
a truck back-
fires
87 birds change trees

My brother's fishtank
algae powder on the walls
sea life too is dust

Cutting Edge Quarterly 1:3

scuba lead belt
on my brother's floor
the curtain stirring

Frogpond XI:3

rain on Diamond Head
small ponds
in the lava flow

Frogpond XIII:3

white petals
of the tea shrub
stirred by the breeze

Azami 3

In Gauguin's hut
his last picture
Breton snow

Frogpond XI:1

storm wind
in the trees
shrieks of mynah birds

who's trying to understand
Basho
I'll never know

witness
for peace
but who
has seen it

Hummingbird VI:4

Basho tree
wood utterly useless
it goes bananas

solstice
blinking on and off
a metronome

Brussels Sprout IX:3

thin waterfall
beside the Hana road
slow line of cars

in my brother's coat
walking on a winter lake
old rain below

Cutting Edge Quarterly 1:3

The night tide
rises
the moon
swells with light

the night nurse
stays to talk
her blue mascara

Frogpond XI:3

diving the red cliffs
of Oahu
cardinals

Frogpond XIII:3

I'm older than Basho
the fact I thought of it
shows I'll never learn

Mainichi Daily News 12 November 1994

Acknowledgements

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Photographs by Laura Ruby

Front Cover: *Kamakura Shrine*

Back Cover: *Tony at Daitokuji, Kyoto*

TONY QUAGLIANO (1941-2007)—poet, essayist, literary critic, jazz writer, editor and Professor of American Studies at Japan American Institute for Management Science and the University of Hawaii—was born in Brooklyn but spent most of his life in Honolulu. Widely published in magazines and journals large and small, he was recipient of the inaugural Pushcart Prize (1976), as well as the Elliott Cades Award for Literature (1988) and the Stefan Baciu Award in Literature for cutting-edge artistic quality, originality, creativity and inventiveness in a body of work (2000). His books of long poetry include *Language Drawn and Quartered* (Ghost Dance Press 1975), *Fierce Meadows* (Petronium Press, 1981) and *Snail Mail Poems* (Tinfish Network, 1998). He edited, among other things, *KAIMANA—The Journal of the Hawaii Literary Arts Council*. His haiku appeared in all the major haiku journals, and in 1997 he was one of six Americans chosen to select the haiku that appear on the National Japanese American Memorial in Washington D.C.



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