

Birds & Felines



haiku by Giselle Maya
and June Moreau



猫

birds (cover) and felines
calligraphy by Yasuo Mizui

PREFACE

« The great artist is the simplifier » wrote Henri-Frédéric Amiel in his *Journal Intime* (Private Journal) « Music is harmony, harmony is perfection, perfection is our dream, and our dream is heaven. » How the Swiss philosopher and poet might have cherished the contents of these pages.

The mystic harmonies of marmelade cat and weightless chickadees, and of those intricate dreams that exist between the noon sun and evening bell, are the subjects of this book of delicate image and ineffable pause. With these two accomplished haiku poets, Giselle Maya of Provence and June Moreau of New England, the reader enters into the continuum of awareness ---between bird and feline, human and wild creature, blue space and the shimmer of waves. An unforgettable realm of mind-and-heart, earth and shadow.

To those who come to this book seeking the handiwork of artists who understand the values of the simple, I offer warm welcome. Let each poem be a portal, a meditation, and prepare to soar.

Michael McClintock
Los Angeles, California
February 2007



Giselle Maya

*grass pillow
of intricate dreams -
birds in flight*

*birds' twitter
spurs willow to spring-
return to the east*

*a bird named Peng
mythical and of great speed -
our arms become wings*

from plum limbs
chickadees flit weightless
into blue space

mourning doves
gathered on the roof
a breath of powder snow

*willow's reflection
in the emerald voice
of the cuckoo*

scent of yellow broom
I will buy the caged doves
and set them free



early spring
down to the garden the cat
running ahead

walking slowly
along the ramparts
joining the cats

morning bell
the cat's whiskers
quivering

kindred souls
cat and I watching
chickadees

*spring dusk
the cat's tail
off on a hunt*

by the fire
the cat melts
into my lap

winter morning
snuggled close together
my two cats



June Moreau

*its shadow etched
with the ink of light -
the white ibis*

ocean mist
in the oak trees -
the raven's voice

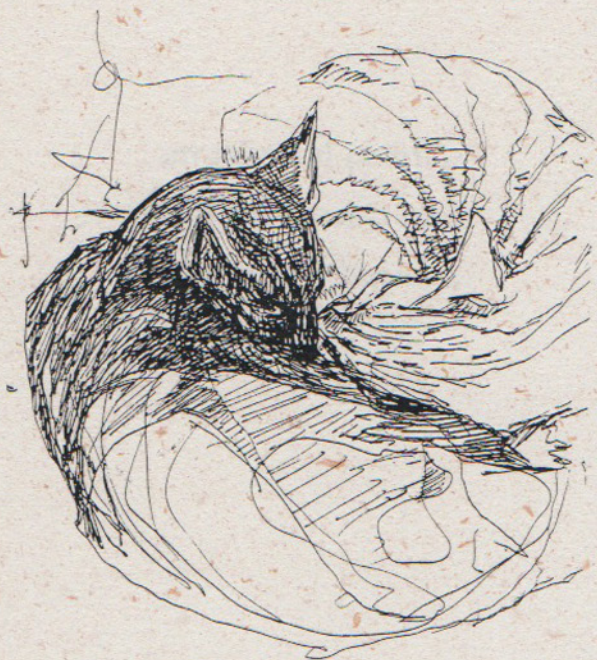
*lighter than the earth
spinning in space
goldfinch in an oak tree*

interrupting
the moon's glow
squawk of a heron

crow cawing
did it stub its voice
on a tree stump

sharper
than its beak
the sea raven's eye

soaring between me
and the scant moon
a broad-winged hawk



taking each step
the way its shadow does
the black cat

marmalade cat
eyes closed to any care -
the soothing sound of rain

it's a wonder
the wind doesn't take it
the cat's shadow

*sprawling in gongs of light
from the noon sun -
black-maned lion*

*pouring blueberries
into the pie crust -
cat purring*

prowling with earth fires
smoldering in their bellies -
lean-cheeked leopards

strolling up the street
with its tail straight up -
a cat called Jasper

*under the leaves
of the morning glory
cat's eyes*

Natsume Soseki

June Moreau is a prolific poet who lives in Lexington, Massachusetts and enjoys exploring the forests of New England. Her poems have been published in many journals and she has received numerous awards for her poems.

Giselle Maya is a painter who lives in Provence. Her haiku, haibun, tanka and renga have been published in journals internationally. She has published fourteen volumes of poetry.

Yasuo Mizui is a sculptor whose monumental works of stone can be seen in many public sites, e.g. Paris, Nancy, Colmar, Grenoble, Montpellier, Bordeaux and in Japan. He lives and works in Provence. He is also a calligrapher.

NOTES

spring dusk/the cat's tail/off on a hunt
first published in Heron's Nest

DRAWINGS by Aisha

except Swallows and Waves (detail) kakemono,
ink on silk by Okamoto Shuki

Designed and published by :

Giselle Maya

KOYAMA PRESS

84750 Saint Martin de Castillon

France

Limited Edition

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