

# *a Year Unfolding*

haiku by *Debbie Strange*

The lower half of the image features a series of fluid, golden-yellow swirls and folds, resembling a ribbon or a piece of fabric caught in a gentle breeze. The lighting is soft and directional, coming from the upper left, which creates a gradient of light and shadow across the curves, giving them a three-dimensional, sculptural quality. The colors range from a pale, almost white-gold at the highlights to a deep, warm amber in the recessed areas.



## *Praise for A YEAR UNFOLDING*

“Debbie Strange is a poet I’m always excited to publish. It’s refreshing to find this type of haiku insofar as both excellent content and correct rhythm, there’s no mistaking that her style qualifies as real ‘haiku.’

Debbie’s work reflects her natural personality and exuberance for nature. A Year Unfolding is a fine collection, two of my favorites being ‘on the tundra’ and ‘in the pond.’

I believe the world will be seeing much more of Debbie’s writings in numerous other publications, and as contest winners...how fortunate this is for readers and lovers of Japanese short forms!”

~ an’ya, United Haiku and Tanka Society’s  
Principal Editor of *cattails*

“Debbie’s work has graced the pages of many a fine haiku journal, and her spirit infuses any discussion of modern haiku. Now she shares her work in this chapbook with all of us. Her delicate insights into every facet of life are wonderful examples of the form. You won’t find a better collection of haiku to hold in your hand, and you have the added but unseen benefit of reading the work of a wonderful person. If you are holding this book, then you have something worthwhile in your hands.”

~Mike Rehling, Past Officer of the United Haiku  
and Tanka Society

# *a Year Unfolding*

Debbie Strange

*with calligraphy by JS Graustein*



Folded Word  
*Meredith, New Hampshire*

Copyright © 2017 by Debbie Strange and JS Graustein

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without prior permission in writing from the publisher. Publisher hereby grants permission to reviewers to quote up to two haiku in their reviews, and requests that hyperlinks to said reviews be e-mailed or physical copies mailed to the address below. Requests for permission to make copies of any part of this work should be e-mailed to:

FoldedEditors@gmail.com, subject line “permissions”

ISBN 978-1-61019-234-7

Folded Word

79 Tracy Way

Meredith, NH 03253

United States of America

WWW.FOLDEDWORD.COM

Cover art: Debbie Strange, “Curvilinear,” 2011.

Design by JS Graustein

Titles set in Gill Sans MT

Text calligraphy in JS Graustein’s Carolingian hand

Additional text set in Garamond Premier Pro

*for an'ya*  
*with gratitude*





*a Year Unfolding*



white bells

ringing the changes

lily of the valley



another egg

in the falcon's nest

rising moon



muddy jeans

the pasture speckled

with crocuses





leaf mulch

a nest of bunnies

halts the rake



spent blossoms

become songbirds

late snow



popping open

the sound of summer

caragana pods



dragonfly

how your wings

carry me





moonglow

a thousand jellyfish

in an ocean of sky



mountain lupine

the colour of wild

in your eyes



at the jubilee

bohemian waxwings

eating cherries



sand dollars

the currency of tides

in my pocket





lake-light

a line of mergansers

ripples the clouds



duskfall

we trail our fingers

through stars



in the hills

cattle lowing between

silences



great blue heron

leaning into the mirror

I become still





harvest moon

the cat's whiskers sparkle

with grain dust



bumper crop

a grasshopper sky

all that remains



sere grasses

summer threads

unraveling



aftermath

a skunk forages

in fireweed





on fence posts

the exclamation marks

of raptors  
.  
.



wind gusts  
a rotten burl full  
of wild plums



on the beach

I collect the broken shell

of myself



in the pond

a white begonia

and old news





thistledown

our wishes rising

with the moon



shorn fields  
the midnight croaking  
of sandhill cranes



early frost

a gazing ball reflects

white roses



a slate sky  
knows the calligraphy  
of trees





heart's berry

how you bleed

into snow



on the tundra

caging a winter sky

caribou bones



midnight sun

will you miss me

when I'm gone



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

DEBBIE STRANGE is the author of *Warp and Weft: Tanka Threads* (Keibooks, 2015). She makes her home in Winnipeg, Manitoba, after having lived in each of the four western Canadian provinces. Poetry of place plays an integral role in much of her writing. Her work has been translated, anthologized, and published internationally, as well as showcased by the United Haiku and Tanka Society in 2013, and by the Mann Library at Cornell University in 2016. Her haiku placed 1st in the 2015 Haiku Society of America Harold G. Henderson Contest, along with four 1st place awards in various competitions throughout 2016.

Debbie is an avid photographer whose images have been exhibited and published. She is also passionate about creating haiga and tanka art, and exploring nature with her husband in their lime-green 1978 Volkswagen camper. Every poem brings Debbie closer to the world and to herself.

Please visit an archive of Debbie's published work at:

DEBBIEMSTRANGE.BLOGSPOT.CA

## ABOUT THE CALLIGRAPHER

JS GRAUSTEIN is the Editor in Chief of *Folded Word*, co-author with William O'Daly of *Water Ways* (Folded Word, 2017) and the author of *How to Write an Exceptional Thesis or Dissertation* (Atlantic Publishing Group, 2012). She holds a Master of Science in Biology (Northern Illinois University, DeKalb), a Literary Publishing Certificate (Emerson College, Boston). Her calligraphy and photography have appeared on the covers of numerous hand-bound Signature Series chapbooks (Folded Word 2009-2013). This is her third chapbook rendered in the Carolingian hand. She lives amongst the trees in the picturesque highlands of Meredith, New Hampshire. To learn more, please visit her at:

GRAYESTONE.WORDPRESS.COM



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Author:*

I am grateful to an'ya, the highly esteemed writer, editor, and publisher of the United Haiku and Tanka Society's journal, *cattails*, for her steadfast support. She was the first editor to publish my short form poetry, and I would never have begun this haiku journey without that life-changing first acceptance!

Deep appreciation is also due to Mike Rehling for his consistent encouragement in presenting my work in his acclaimed monthly publication, *Failed Haiku: A Journal of English Senryu*.

Thanks also to the talented Folded Word team: JS Graustein, Rose Auslander, Barbara Flaherty, Casey Tingle, Makenzie Giroux, Miran Reynolds, Maryka Gillis, Kristine Slentz, Megan Graustein, and Sarah Gibson — for their exquisite attention to detail, and above all, for giving this project wings.

The United Haiku and Tanka Society previously published all of the works in this collection between 2013 and 2016.

In addition, the following poems have been honored by various organizations:

“on the tundra” received 3rd place for haiku in the 2014 Second Annual AHA Awards.

“heart’s berry” originally appeared in the Winter 2014 Showcase issue of *The Zen Space*, edited by Marie Marshall. This work also placed 3rd in the 2013 *DIOGEN* Winter Haiga Contest.

“shorn fields” originally appeared in the 120th Monthly Haiga Contest of the World Haiku Association in May, 2014, edited by Kuniharu Shimizu.

“on the tundra”, “shorn fields”, and “on the beach”, also appeared in *Small Coals*, a 2014 Haiku Canada Sheet edited by LeRoy Gorman.

### *Calligrapher:*

I echo the thanks to the Folded Word team listed above. I would also like to thank Ben Moeller-Gaa, Julie Warther, Kurt Graustein, and Gigi Scanlon for their input and support along my journey with the Carolingian hand.



Since 2008, Folded Word has been  
*exploring the world, one voice at a time*  
with the help of editors, authors, and readers  
who value sustainable literature.

PROUD MEMBER

[clmp]

COMMUNITY OF LITERARY MAGAZINES & PRESSES  
W W W . C L M P . O R G

*This title is part of the*  
**Folded Word Special Collection**  
Wolfeboro Public Library  
Wolfeboro, New Hampshire

Like this book?  
SUBSCRIBE TO THE SERIES.

Receive new, quick reads automatically in your mailbox!  
Subscriptions to Folded Word's 2017 Series will be available through 30 November 2017:

FULL YEAR (7 titles): \$70\*

WINTER/SPRING (4 titles): \$50

AUTUMN (3 titles): \$36

To order, please visit our shop at:

FOLDEDWORD.BIGCARTEL.COM

The subscription offer for the current year is on top. Offer extends to back issues of the current chapbook year.

*\*Full year subscriptions are a \$130 value. Free shipping in the USA.*

Titles included in  
FOLDED WORD'S 2017 SERIES:

WINTER/SPRING:

*A Year Unfolding* by Debbie Strange  
featuring calligraphy by JS Graustein  
[haiku & senryu]

*Water Ways* by William O'Daly & JS Graustein  
[poetry, prose & photography]

*Gisela: Princess, Empress, Abbess, Saint* by Marcus Speh  
[novella in flash fiction]

*Watershed* by Jean L. French  
[poetry]

AUTUMN:

*Portraits in G Minor* by Paco Marquez Reyes  
[poetry]

*The Magic Rectangle* by Sandra S. McRae  
[prose poetry]

*After Rain* by Gary Schroeder  
with calligraphy by JS Graustein  
[haiku & senryu]

For a complete list of our titles plus multi-media presentations from this book, visit the Folded Word website: [WWW.FOLDEDWORD.COM](http://WWW.FOLDEDWORD.COM)

To report typographical errors, email:  
[FOLDEDEDITORS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FOLDEDEDITORS@GMAIL.COM)

Want more information about our books, chapbooks, and zine? Want to connect with contributors from this book? No problem. Simply join us at a social media outlet near you:

Facebook: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FOLDEDWORD](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FOLDEDWORD)  
Twitter: [TWITTER.COM/FOLDEDWORD](http://TWITTER.COM/FOLDEDWORD)

We love to hear from our readers. Just send your thoughts via email to [FoldedEditors@gmail.com](mailto:FoldedEditors@gmail.com) with the subject line “Year Unfolding Feedback.”

**Cheers!**



