# The Eighth Jane Reichhold Memorial Haiga Competition Terri and Raymond French Judging

Traditional 1st Place



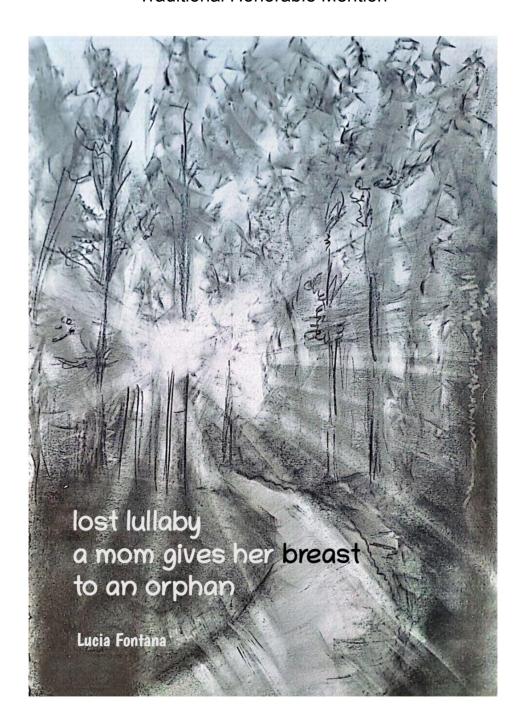
Barbara Kaufmann

Hands down our favorite. The senryu adds a shocking and poignant contrast to the simple, carefree painting in this haiga. We liked the connection between the balloons and the students. Balloons are quiet until popped, which could be a dark connection to the explosion of gunfire and subsequent tragedies schools and their families have suffered. Who ever thought teachers would have to teach their students the "quiet game" and be responsible for not just their education, but for protecting their very lives? Yet, this is the world we live in.



Rob Scott and Olivia Ark

What a lovely collaborative haiga! Beautiful watercolor trees on a soft, sepia background, With the space, the clearing, representing an opening for sunlight to come through. What ever transition this woman is experiencing, she describes it as a "good space," perhaps a space for healing and growth. A hopeful piece.



Lucia Fontana

It's what this senryu does not implicitly say that makes it so touchingly sad. A lost lullaby, one the biological mother will never sing. Has she passed? Was her child abandoned? We do not know the exact circumstances. But another child's mother steps in to nourish this baby. The contrast of shadows and light in this haiga, offers the reader a sign of hope that things will work out for the orphan.

out without my phone

I see the sunset



as it really is

Julia Wakefield

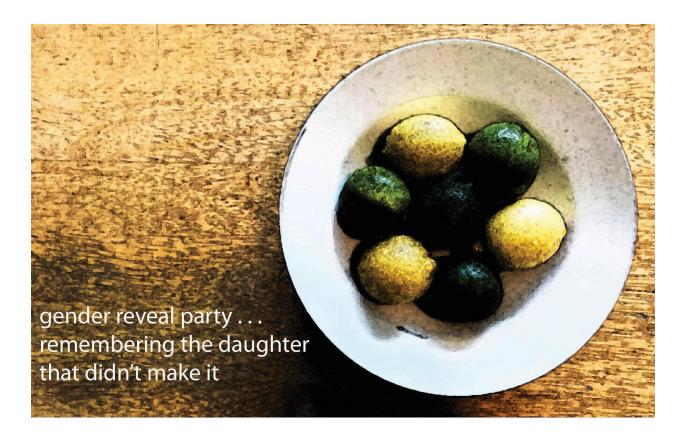
When we see something interesting or beautiful, our first instinct is to pull out our phones to photograph it, often not fully appreciating the scene. We really liked the simplicity of the image representing the setting sun reflected on waves in the water. The placement of the words causes the eye to circle, to take in the entire image. One cannot truly experience the grandeur of a beautiful sunset while worrying about capturing that "perfect shot." Thanks to the poet and artist for this reminder.



Debbie Strange

A lovely haiga. We liked the implied connection between the back-and-forth of migration and life's inevitable changes, often changing direction unexpectedly. The cranes flying in different directions, the swish in the center suggesting movement and the flowing font of the senryu all work together so well.

#### Mixed Media 1st Place



#### **Scott Holmes**

This senryu can be taken in more than one way, leaving it to the reader to interpret the meaning for themselves. Is this the child whose gender was revealed at the party, or a previous daughter that didn't make it full term? We also liked the subtle connection between gender and a bowl of lemons and limes. There is one less lemon, which could represent the missing daughter, or does the blackened lime represent the missing daughter? hmmm



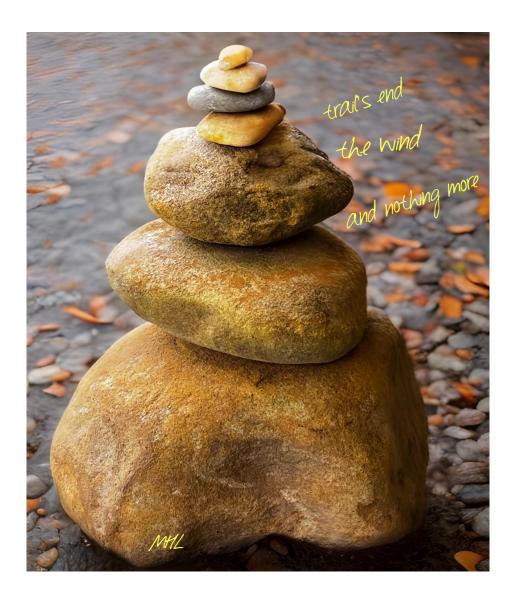
Tracy Davidson

This whimsical haiga made us laugh out loud, while at the same time eliciting empathy for the writer. After all, what parent of a teenage daughter hasn't sometimes seen themselves as the matador and their child as the raging bull? Often it's easier to just give in. There's an air of defiance in the bull's stare which probably mimics the look on the daughter's face. This image and senryu were paired perfectly.



Peggy Bilbro

We did have to lookup the meaning of "vagaries" to get what is a wonderful connection to the haphazard nature of the graffiti in this image. Who amongst us has not uttered "that darn auto correct!" when a word we've texted is inadvertently changed to something odd or even inappropriate? A light-hearted, relatable haiga.



Michael Henry Lee

We found this an aesthetically pleasing haiga. The colors, the blurred background, the precariously balanced cairn, the way the words somewhat mimic the alternating stacking of the cairn rocks—it all works together harmoniously. Is this a metaphorical or physical trail, a change of life or end of life poem? Regardless, if all that's left at the end of a trail or life path is the wind, is that really nothing, or could it be everything?



Susan Burch

After reading the senryu in this haiga we wondered "who in this family is blue and why?" Is it perhaps a teenager who just didn't want to go on a vacation with parents and younger siblings, or maybe it's spouses who are not getting along? Whoever is trying to keep their emotions contained, they aren't doing a very good job, as suggested by the blue jay "hiding" in the grasses. The blue color or the senryu and the bird along with the blue mood, bring this haiga together cohesively.