

Leanne Mumford's haiku & haibun first published in print journals and collections

a shadow
meets its maker
falling leaf ¹

low dunes
bent grass needles
record the wind ¹

sunlit tarn
a platypus dabbles
in snow gums ²

Roebuck Bay
the tide shuffles
godwits and whimbrels ²

Gibb River Road
the pindan sunset
goes on and on ²

slugs of rain
dent the slow river
I pedal faster ³

distant lightning
the yellow-streaked purple
of a single iris ³

mountain road
a wallaby hops
into cloud ³

soup steam
fogs my glasses
shortest day ⁴

clear water
in Wineglass Bay, we skim
over whale bones ⁵

learning the names
of seven autumn grasses –
Tokei-ji ⁶
各を覚ゆ秋の七草東慶寺

bathed in
gum blossom scent
autumn sunshine ⁷

a bat squawks
in the flowering gum
harvest moon ⁷

Christmas Eve
a magpie carols
in the gum tree ⁷

another creek bed
another emu dad
and chicks ⁷

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stopping again
for a sleepy lizard
Wirrealpa road ⁷

moonrise
over the miners' memorial
leaving Broken Hill ⁷

fallen leaves
all the colours of blood ...
Anzac Day ⁸

petals shower
from the jacaranda
a blue wren's song ⁹

ジャカランダの花びらの雨 青
ミソサザイが歌って

Port Augusta
a freight train rattles
through saltbush ¹⁰

ancient crossroads ...
a stranger hands me
a map ¹¹

lingering heat
the firewheel tree
in flower ¹¹

lunch break
the scent of murraya
spills over a fence ¹¹

moonrise
through winter trees -
her bulimia ¹²

First publication credits

- 1 *AHA The Anthology: Collected Works of AHA Forum Members* 2012
- 2 *Paper Wasp* 19(1) 2013
- 3 *Paper Wasp* 19(2) 2013
- 4 *Paper Wasp* 19(3) 2013
- 5 *Windfall* 2 2014
- 6 *Haiku 20th Anniversary* Meguro International Haiku Circle 2014
- 7 *Paper Wasp* 20(4) 2014
- 8 *Windfall* 3 2015
- 9 笹 (Sasa) May 2015
Japanese by Ikemoto Kenichi
- 10 *Windfall* 4 2016
- 11 *Paper Wasp* 22(2) 2016
- 12 *Full of Moonlight* Haiku Society of America 2016
Members Anthology

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lanterns float
on Hiroshima Day
recalling Obama's speech ¹³

tin moon
the wind-up bear
starts to dance ¹⁴

a belted kingfisher
darts from the fallen tree
seaweed tang ¹⁵

the fragrance
of sub-alpine firs
Hurricane Ridge ¹⁶

sundews glisten
in the hanging swamp
frogspawn ¹⁷

new shoots
on the grape vine
wedding anniversary ¹⁸

ice-cubes clink
in my glass of rosé
the summer moon ¹⁹

twilight
deep in the bird's nest fern
a cricket chirps ¹⁹

crescent moon
a cat's silhouette weaves
through bamboo ²⁰

Kyorai's small grave marker fallen persimmons ¹⁵

First publication credits

13 笠 (Sasa) 2017.8 August
14 *Modern Haiku* 48:3 2017
15 *inhaling* 2016 Seabeck
Haiku Getaway Anthology
2017
16 *on down the road* Haiku
Society of America 2017
Anthology
17 *Windfall* 6 2018
18 *Modern Haiku* 49.1 (Winter-
Spring) 2018
19 *Seashores* 1 2018
20 *Modern Haiku* 49.3
(Autumn) 2018

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willow moon
shamisen notes drift
over the canal ²¹

squally rain
the snow gum's roots
deep in Dove Lake ²²

delta morning
the swirl where a hippo

was ²³

dusty street market
a jumble of bright
chitenge fabrics ²⁴

summer holiday
the first wave's
cold slap ²⁵

wild violets
beside Totoro's forest
distant voices ²⁶

silk slides
against my skin
pearl moon ²⁷

Victoria Falls
school kids from Harare
high-five me ²⁸

First publication credits

21 reprinted in *Four Hundred and Two Snails* Haiku Society of America Members' Anthology 2018; *9th Yamadera Basho Memorial Museum English Haiku Contest* 2017

22 *Windfall* 7 2019

23 *Frog Pond* 42:1 2019

24 *Modern Haiku* 50.1 2019

25 *Seashores* 2 2019

26 *A Moment's Longing* (HSA Members' Anthology) 2019

27 *Seashores* 3 2019

28 *Haiku Meguro International Haiku Circle* 25th Anniversary 2019

29 *Haiku Forum* Vol.2 No.1 2019

30 *Modern Haiku* 50.3 2019

31 *Windfall* 8 2020

32 *Seashores* 4 2020

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a purple cloud
over the trellis
wisteria scent ²⁸

counting the seconds
between lightning and thunder
Arashiyama ²⁸

splashes of sky
glint down Nara hillsides
rice planting time ²⁸

Zuigan-ji
a tsunami marker planted
among the cedars ²⁸

in straw sandals
he walked this steep path
semizuka ²⁸

a new bridge
to the old temple
petal rain ²⁸

scudding clouds...
pigeons strut
round the square ²⁸

the blue colour
of pickled eggplant
smoky *izakaya* ²⁸

sunset glow...
peeling the last
persimmon ²⁹

夕焼けや最後の柿をむいている

lantern light reflects
in the *rotenburo*
raindrop ripples ³⁰

our shadows falling
across the ancient midden—
Murramarang ³¹

bushfire moon
hanging over the city
the wingbeats of bats ³²

a black kite's whistle drifting cherry petals ³²

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jazz piano shimmering willow leaves by the pond ³³

table for two
a Sunday roast
warms the kitchen ³⁴

a magpie's song
washes over me
morning cool ³⁵

petrichor
a skink tastes
the air ³⁵

rain all day
still the air reeks
of bushfire smoke ³⁵

skinks and I
warming our backs
shortest day ³⁶

pink-edged cloud
the last camellia blossom
falls ³⁷

sudden laughter
from across the road—
kookaburras ³⁸

first pine mushrooms
at the greengrocer's
early dusk ³⁸

ragged columns
of blue soldier crabs
retreating tide ³⁹

old pond—
a few persimmons
dangle over it ⁴⁰

First publication credits

33 *Bundled Wildflowers* (HSA Members' Anthology) 2020

34 *Modern Haiku* 51.2 2020

35 *Kingfisher* 1 2020

36 *Modern Haiku* 51.3 2020

37 *Seashores* 5 2020

38 *Kingfisher* 2 2020

39 *Windfall* 9 2021

40 *Modern Haiku* 52.1 2021

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ears of grass
bending in the breeze...
what I can't change ⁴¹

swirling wind...
curls
of last year's bark ⁴²

our blind dog
noses her way round the yard
winter sunshine ⁴³

thump of a newspaper
on the front step ...
Saturday ⁴⁴

full of holes
and memories—
grandma's string bag ⁴⁴

dunny
without a door...
the milky way ⁴⁵

night wind
stirring the banana grove
a bat's cry ⁴⁶

earthquake news
jolts my memory—
the old kitchen ⁴⁷

after days of rain blue dragonfly ⁴⁷

First publication credits

- 41 *Seashores* 6 2021
- 42 *Paper Mountain* 2020
Seabeck Haiku Getaway
Anthology 2021
- 43 *Modern Haiku* 52.3 2021
- 44 *Seashores* 7 2021
- 45 *Windfall* 10 2022
- 46 *Modern Haiku* 53.1 2022
- 47 *Seashores* 8 2022

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woken by a cough
outside the window—
moonlit kangaroo ⁴⁸

day at the beach
the long walk uphill
back to the car ⁵⁰

the bride's gown
a little muddy at the hem...
country wedding ⁵²

indigo clouds
the distant rumble
of a suburban train ⁴⁹

sunrise glow
through coastal ironbarks
faintly, kookaburras ⁵¹

a doll
left on the park bench...
summer twilight ⁵³

the scent
of late gardenias
a cricket's chirp ⁴⁹

highway rest stop
a gum blossom sprig tucked
into my hat band ⁵²

stone foxes
at the Inari shrine
curling mist ⁵³

urban wetland
the shadow calligraphy
of tiny fish ⁴⁹

buff-banded rail
sneaking through the sedge
spring breeze ⁵²

easter
fish & chips with Grandpa
by the lighthouse ⁵⁴

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beach stones chatter in the wash of moonlight ⁵⁵

Privileged ⁵⁶

Two fires blaze at the south end of the beach, in the lee of a headland cliff. Smoke rises into the star-filled sky. Despite mid-winter cold, retreat members all stand back from the flames, making space for the dancers.

Older men, painted up with white ochre, begin to sing and mark the rhythm with clapsticks. Also painted up, the young men weave intricate patterns around the fires. They sing and call out sharply in the crisp air. Sand flies as their feet step, jump, stamp and kick. The dancers' arms glide in graceful arcs. Singing and dancing their totem, Umbarra, the black duck, the men's torsos shine with sweat.

**sons and fathers
together on Country—
a breaking wave**

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After many spirited dances, both fires are burning down. The elders invite us watchers to join in. Making one big circle with the Yuin men, we stamp and clap anticlockwise around the flames. Together we are winding back time.

The music finishes. The young men peel away, run down to the surf and dive in, laughing.

our shadows falling
across the ancient midden—
Murramarang ³¹

a burst
of lightning—
pickled ginger ⁵⁶

night walk
to the cemetery
cedar fragrance ⁵⁶

alpine meadow
the clanging of cow bells
in the clear air ⁵⁷

a horse-drawn cart
hauling logs—
the road to Oltenița ⁵⁷

First publication credits

- 48 *dawn returns* Haiku Society of America Members' Anthology 2022
- 49 *Kokako* 37 2022
- 50 *Seashores* 9 2022
- 51 *Modern Haiku* 54.1 2023
- 52 *Kokako* 38 2023
- 53 *Seashores* 10 2023
- 54 *Modern Haiku* 54.2 2023
- 55 *Poetry from the Edge: Haiku Down Under Anthology* 2022
- 56 *Kokako* 39 2023
- 57 *Seashores* 11 2023

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a whiff of chlorine
from the mercury cells—
night shift ⁵⁸

borders still shut-
bees visiting
French Lavender ⁶⁰

edge of the salt pan
at my feet, a meerkat munches
on scorpion⁶⁰

summer evening
organ music seeps out
of the Frauenkirche ⁵⁹

dappled shade
cicadas
start up ⁶⁰

the shrieks of bats
on a moonless night—
sciatica ⁶⁰

a ceiling leak
drips into a yellow bowl—
more rain forecast ⁶⁰

a turtle rests
on a fallen log
day's end ⁶⁰

surf beach
watching dad cast a line
into winter dawn ⁶⁰

red bougainvillea
swaying on the sea breeze
New Year's Eve ⁶⁰

sudden downpour
the laughter
of kookaburras ⁶⁰

gardenia scent
hangs in the humid air
distant thunder ⁶⁰

desert campground
the comings and goings
of sociable weavers ⁶⁰

chill air
a magpie's song lifts
off the mountain ⁶⁰

wind tears the leaves
of the banana grove—
rolling thunder ⁶⁰

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wisteria flowers
draped along the fence
my heart quickens ⁶⁰

the black trunks
of temple bamboo—
parting words ⁶⁰

a bee forages
in a camellia flower
winter solstice ⁶⁰

warm spring day . . .
our old dog takes
her last breath ⁶¹

Christmas morning
everybody but Grandma
in bathers ⁶²

click of claws
on the metal roof
— currawong ⁶²

viaduct—
only a trickle
in the creek ⁶²

First publication credits

58 *Fractured by Cattails: The
Haiku Society of America 2023*

Members' Anthology 2023

59 *Modern Haiku* 55.1 2024

60 *Haiku: 30th Anniversary
Meguro International Haiku
Circle* 2024

61 *Frogpond* 47.1 2024

62 *Kokako* 40 2024