

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

a shadow  
meets its maker  
falling leaf <sup>1</sup>

low dunes  
bent grass needles  
record the wind <sup>1</sup>

sunlit tarn  
a platypus dabbles  
in snow gums <sup>2</sup>

Roebuck Bay  
the tide shuffles  
godwits and whimbrels <sup>2</sup>

Gibb River Road  
the pindan sunset  
goes on and on <sup>2</sup>

slugs of rain  
dent the slow river  
I pedal faster <sup>3</sup>

distant lightning  
the yellow-streaked purple  
of a single iris <sup>3</sup>

mountain road  
a wallaby hops  
into cloud <sup>3</sup>

soup steam  
fogs my glasses  
shortest day <sup>4</sup>

clear water  
in Wineglass Bay, we skim  
over whale bones <sup>5</sup>

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

bathed in  
gum blossom scent  
autumn sunshine <sup>7</sup>

a bat squawks  
in the flowering gum  
harvest moon <sup>7</sup>

Christmas Eve  
a magpie carols  
in the gum tree <sup>7</sup>

another creek bed  
another emu dad  
and chicks <sup>7</sup>

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stopping again  
for a sleepy lizard  
Wirrealpa road <sup>7</sup>

moonrise  
over the miners' memorial  
leaving Broken Hill <sup>7</sup>

fallen leaves  
all the colours of blood ...  
Anzac Day <sup>8</sup>

petals shower  
from the jacaranda  
a blue wren's song <sup>9</sup>

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 <sup>10</sup>

ancient crossroads ...  
a stranger hands me  
a map <sup>11</sup>

lingering heat  
the firewheel tree  
in flower <sup>11</sup>

lunch break  
the scent of murraya  
spills over a fence <sup>11</sup>

moonrise  
through winter trees -  
her bulimia <sup>12</sup>

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** <sup>13</sup>

**tin moon**

**the wind-up bear  
starts to dance** <sup>14</sup>

**a belted kingfisher**

**darts from the fallen tree  
seaweed tang** <sup>15</sup>

**the fragrance**

**of sub-alpine firs  
Hurricane Ridge** <sup>16</sup>

**sundews glisten**

**in the hanging swamp  
frogspawn** <sup>17</sup>

**new shoots**

**on the grape vine  
wedding anniversary** <sup>18</sup>

**ice-cubes clink**

**in my glass of rosé  
the summer moon** <sup>19</sup>

**twilight**

**deep in the bird's nest fern  
a cricket chirps** <sup>19</sup>

**crescent moon**

**a cat's silhouette weaves  
through bamboo** <sup>20</sup>

**Kyorai's small grave marker fallen persimmons** <sup>15</sup>

First publication credits

13 ~~俳~~ (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 <sup>21</sup>**

**squally rain  
the snow gum's roots  
deep in Dove Lake <sup>22</sup>**

**delta morning  
the swirl where a hippo**

**was <sup>23</sup>**

**dusty street market  
a jumble of bright  
chitenge fabrics <sup>24</sup>**

**summer holiday  
the first wave's  
cold slap <sup>25</sup>**

**wild violets  
beside Totoro's forest  
distant voices <sup>26</sup>**

**silk slides  
against my skin  
pearl moon <sup>27</sup>**

**Victoria Falls  
school kids from Harare  
high-five me <sup>28</sup>**

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 <sup>28</sup>

counting the seconds  
between lightning and thunder  
Arashiyama <sup>28</sup>

splashes of sky  
glint down Nara hillsides  
rice planting time <sup>28</sup>

Zuigan-ji  
a tsunami marker planted  
among the cedars <sup>28</sup>

in straw sandals  
he walked this steep path  
semizuka <sup>28</sup>

a new bridge  
to the old temple  
petal rain <sup>28</sup>

scudding clouds...  
pigeons strut  
round the square <sup>28</sup>

the blue colour  
of pickled eggplant  
smoky izakaya <sup>28</sup>

sunset glow...  
peeling the last  
persimmon <sup>29</sup>

夕焼けや最後の柿をむいている

lantern light reflects  
in the rotenburo  
raindrop ripples <sup>30</sup>

our shadows falling  
across the ancient midden—  
Murramarang <sup>31</sup>

bushfire moon  
hanging over the city  
the wingbeats of bats <sup>32</sup>

a black kite's whistle drifting cherry petals <sup>32</sup>

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**jazz piano shimmering willow leaves by the pond** <sup>33</sup>

**table for two  
a Sunday roast  
warms the kitchen** <sup>34</sup>

**a magpie's song  
washes over me  
morning cool** <sup>35</sup>

**petrichor  
a skink tastes  
the air** <sup>35</sup>

**rain all day  
still the air reeks  
of bushfire smoke** <sup>35</sup>

**skinks and I  
warming our backs  
shortest day** <sup>36</sup>

**pink-edged cloud  
the last camellia blossom  
falls** <sup>37</sup>

**sudden laughter  
from across the road—  
kookaburras** <sup>38</sup>

**first pine mushrooms  
at the greengrocer's  
early dusk** <sup>38</sup>

**ragged columns  
of blue soldier crabs  
retreating tide** <sup>39</sup>

**old pond—  
a few persimmons  
dangle over it** <sup>40</sup>

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 <sup>41</sup>

swirling wind...  
curls  
of last year's bark <sup>42</sup>

our blind dog  
noses her way round the yard  
winter sunshine <sup>43</sup>

thump of a newspaper  
on the front step ...  
Saturday <sup>44</sup>

full of holes  
and memories—  
grandma's string bag <sup>44</sup>

dunny  
without a door...  
the milky way <sup>45</sup>

night wind  
stirring the banana grove  
a bat's cry <sup>46</sup>

earthquake news  
jolts my memory—  
the old kitchen <sup>47</sup>

after days of rain blue dragonfly <sup>47</sup>

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 <sup>48</sup>

indigo clouds  
the distant rumble  
of a suburban train <sup>49</sup>

the scent  
of late gardenias  
a cricket's chirp <sup>49</sup>

urban wetland  
the shadow calligraphy  
of tiny fish <sup>49</sup>

day at the beach  
the long walk uphill  
back to the car <sup>50</sup>

sunrise glow  
through coastal ironbarks  
faintly, kookaburras <sup>51</sup>

highway rest stop  
a gum blossom sprig tucked  
into my hat band <sup>52</sup>

buff-banded rail  
sneaking through the sedge  
spring breeze <sup>52</sup>

the bride's gown  
a little muddy at the hem...  
country wedding <sup>52</sup>

a doll  
left on the park bench...  
summer twilight <sup>53</sup>

stone foxes  
at the Inari shrine  
curling mist <sup>53</sup>

easter  
fish & chips with Grandpa  
by the lighthouse <sup>54</sup>



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**beach stones chatter in the wash of moonlight <sup>55</sup>**

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**Privileged <sup>56</sup>**

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 <sup>31</sup>**

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**a burst  
of lightning—  
pickled ginger <sup>56</sup>**

**night walk  
to the cemetery  
cedar fragrance <sup>56</sup>**

**alpine meadow  
the clanging of cow bells  
in the clear air <sup>57</sup>**

**a horse-drawn cart  
hauling logs—  
the road to Oltenița <sup>57</sup>**

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