

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

a pelican lands
on the long lagoon
summer dusk ⁵

rippling tide
over the mudflats
eastern curlew cry ⁵

first light
silver gulls break the crust
of sand

journal writing...
a crow calls me back
to the morning ⁵

clear water
in Wineglass Bay, we skim
over whale bones ⁶

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learning the names
of seven autumn grasses -
Tokei-ji ⁷
各を覚ゆ秋の七草東慶寺

bathed in
gum blossom scent
autumn sunshine ⁸

a bat squawks
in the flowering gum
harvest moon ⁸

Christmas Eve
a magpie carols
in the gum tree ⁸

another creek bed
another emu dad
and chicks ⁸

stopping again
for a sleepy lizard
Wirrealpa road ⁸

moonrise
over the miners' memorial
leaving Broken Hill ⁸

fallen leaves
all the colours of blood ...
Anzac Day ⁹

petals shower
from the jacaranda
a blue wren's song ¹⁰

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 ¹¹

ancient crossroads ...
a stranger hands me
a map ¹²

lingering heat
the firewheel tree
in flower ¹²

lunch break
the scent of murraya
spills over a fence ¹²

moonrise
through winter trees -
her bulimia ¹³

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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 *Paper Wasp* 19(4) 2013
6 *Windfall* 2 2014
7 *Haiku 20th Anniversary* Meguro International Haiku Circle 2014
8 *Paper Wasp* 20(4) 2014
9 *Windfall* 3 2015
10 *笹 (Sasa)* May 2015
Japanese by Ikemoto Kenichi
11 *Windfall* 4 2016
12 *Paper Wasp* 22(2) 2016
13 *Full of Moonlight* Haiku Society of America 2016 Members Anthology
14 *笹 (Sasa)* 2017.8 August
15 *Modern Haiku* 48:3 2017

16 *inhaling* 2016 Seabeck Haiku Getaway Anthology 2017
17 *on down the road* Haiku Society of America 2017 Anthology
18 *Windfall* 6 2018
19 *Modern Haiku* 49.1 (Winter-Spring) 2018
20 *Seashores* 1 2018
21 *Modern Haiku* 49.3 (Autumn) 2018 reprinted in *Four Hundred and Two Snails* Haiku Society of America Members' Anthology 2018; *9th Yamadera Basho Memorial Museum English Haiku Contest* 2017
23 *Windfall* 7 2019
24 *Frog Pond* 42:1 2019
25 *Modern Haiku* 50.1 2019
26 *Seashores* 2 2019
27 *A Moment's Longing* (HSA Members' Anthology) 2019
28 *Seashores* 3 2019

**lanterns float
on Hiroshima Day
recalling Obama's speech** ¹⁴

**tin moon
the wind-up bear
starts to dance** ¹⁵

**a belted kingfisher
darts from the fallen tree
seaweed tang** ¹⁶

**the fragrance
of sub-alpine firs
Hurricane Ridge** ¹⁷

**sundews glisten
in the hanging swamp
frogspawn** ¹⁸

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**new shoots
on the grape vine
wedding anniversary** ¹⁹

**ice-cubes clink
in my glass of rosé
the summer moon** ²⁰

**twilight
deep in the bird's nest fern
a cricket chirps** ²⁰

**crescent moon
a cat's silhouette weaves
through bamboo** ²¹

**willow moon
shamisen notes drift
over the canal** ²²

**squally rain
the snow gum's roots
deep in Dove Lake** ²³

**delta morning
the swirl where a hippo
was** ²⁴

**dusty street market
a jumble of bright
chitenge fabrics** ²⁵

Kyorai's small grave marker fallen persimmons ¹⁶

**summer holiday
the first wave's
cold slap** ²⁶

**wild violets
beside Totoro's forest
distant voices** ²⁷

**silk slides
against my skin
pearl moon** ²⁸

**Victoria Falls
school kids from Harare
high-five me** ²⁹

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a purple cloud
over the trellis
wisteria scent ²⁹

counting the seconds
between lightning and
thunder
Arashiyama ²⁹

splashes of sky
glint down Nara hillsides
rice planting time ²⁹

Zuigan-ji
a tsunami marker planted
among the cedars ²⁹

in straw sandals
he walked this steep path
semizuka ²⁹

a new bridge
to the old temple
petal rain ²⁹

scudding clouds...
pigeons strut
round the square ²⁹

the blue colour
of pickled eggplant
smoky izakaya ²⁹

First publication credits

- 29 *Haiku Meguro International Haiku Circle 25th Anniversary 2019*
30 *Haiku Forum Vol.2 No.1 2019*
31 *Modern Haiku 50.3 2019*

sunset glow...
peeling the last
persimmon ³⁰

夕焼けや最後の柿をむいている

lantern light reflects
in the rotenburo
raindrop ripples ³¹

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our shadows falling
across the ancient midden—
Murramarang ³²

bushfire moon
hanging over the city
the wingbeats of bats ³³

table for two
a Sunday roast
warms the kitchen ³⁵

a magpie's song
washes over me
morning cool ³⁶

petrichor
a skink tastes
the air ³⁶

rain all day
still the air reeks
of bushfire smoke ³⁶

skinks and I
warming our backs
shortest day ³⁷

pink-edged cloud
the last camellia blossom
falls ³⁸

sudden laughter
from across the road—
kookaburras ³⁹

first pine mushrooms
at the greengrocer's
early dusk ³⁹

First publication credits

32 *Windfall* 8 2020

33 *Seashores* 4 2020

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

35 *Modern Haiku* 51.2 2020

36 *Kingfisher* 1 2020

37 *Modern Haiku* 51.3 2020

38 *Seashores* 5 2020

39 *Kingfisher* 2 2020

a black kite's whistle drifting cherry petals ³³

jazz piano shimmering willow leaves by the pond ³⁴

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ragged columns
of blue soldier crabs
retreating tide ⁴⁰

old pond—
a few persimmons
dangle over it ⁴¹

ears of grass
bending in the breeze...
what I can't change ⁴²

swirling wind...
curls
of last year's bark ⁴³

our blind dog
noses her way round the yard
winter sunshine ⁴⁴

thump of a newspaper
on the front step ...
Saturday ⁴⁵

full of holes
and memories—
grandma's string bag ⁴⁶

dunny
without a door...
the milky way ⁴⁷

night wind
stirring the banana grove
a bat's cry ⁴⁸

earthquake news
jolts my memory—
the old kitchen ⁴⁹

woken by a cough
outside the window—
moonlit kangaroo ⁴⁹

First publication credits

40 *Windfall* 9 2021

41 *Modern Haiku* 52.1 2021

42 *Seashores* 6 2021

43 *Paper Mountain* 2020

Seabeck Haiku Getaway
Anthology 2021

44 *Modern Haiku* 52.3 2021

45 *Seashores* 7 2021

46 *Windfall* 10 2022

47 *Modern Haiku* 53.1 2022

48 *Seashores* 8 2022

49 *dawn returns* Haiku Society
of America Members'
Anthology 2022

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after days of rain blue dragonfly ⁴⁸

indigo clouds
the distant rumble
of a suburban train ⁵⁰

the scent
of late gardenias
a cricket's chirp ⁵⁰

urban wetland
the shadow calligraphy
of tiny fish ⁵⁰

day at the beach
the long walk uphill
back to the car ⁵¹

sunrise glow
through coastal ironbarks
faintly, kookaburras ⁵²

highway rest stop
a gum blossom sprig tucked
into my hat band ⁵³

buff-banded rail
sneaking through the sedge
spring breeze ⁵³

the bride's gown
a little muddy at the hem...
country wedding ⁵³

a doll
left on the park bench...
summer twilight ⁵⁴

stone foxes
at the Inari shrine
curling mist ⁵⁴

easter
fish & chips with Grandpa
by the lighthouse ⁵⁵

beach stones chatter in the wash of moonlight ⁵⁶

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Privileged ⁵⁷

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 ³²

a burst
of lightning—
pickled ginger ⁵⁷

night walk
to the cemetery
cedar fragrance ⁵⁷

alpine meadow
the clanging of cow bells
in the clear air ⁵⁸

a horse-drawn cart
hauling logs—
the road to Oltenița ⁵⁸

First publication credits

- 50 Kokako 37 2022
- 51 Seashores 9 2022
- 52 Modern Haiku 54.1 2023
- 53 Kokako 38 2023
- 54 Seashores 10 2023
- 55 Modern Haiku 54.2 2023
- 56 Poetry from the Edge: Haiku Down Under Anthology 2022
- 57 Kokako 39 2023
- 58 Seashores 11 2023

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a whiff of chlorine
from the mercury cells—
night shift ⁵⁹

summer evening
organ music seeps out
of the Frauenkirche ⁶⁰

a ceiling leak
drips into a yellow bowl—
more rain forecast ⁶¹

red bougainvillea
swaying on the sea breeze
New Year's Eve ⁶¹

desert campground
the comings and goings
of sociable weavers ⁶¹

borders still shut—
bees visiting
French Lavender ⁶¹

dappled shade
cicadas
start up ⁶¹

a turtle rests
on a fallen log
day's end ⁶¹

sudden downpour
the laughter
of kookaburras ⁶¹

chill air
a magpie's song lifts
off the mountain ⁶¹

edge of the salt pan
at my feet, a meerkat munches
on scorpion ⁶¹

the shrieks of bats
on a moonless night—
sciatica ⁶¹

surf beach
watching dad cast a line
into winter dawn ⁶¹

gardenia scent
hangs in the humid air
distant thunder ⁶¹

wind tears the leaves
of the banana grove—
rolling thunder ⁶¹

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wisteria flowers

draped along the fence
my heart quickens ⁶¹

the black trunks
of temple bamboo—
parting words ⁶¹

a bee forages
in a camellia flower
winter solstice ⁶¹

warm spring day . . .
our old dog takes
her last breath ⁶²

Christmas morning
everybody but Grandma
in bathers ⁶³

click of claws
on the metal roof
— currawong ⁶²

viaduct—
only a trickle
in the creek ⁶³

azure sky
the scent of pine resin
along the trail ⁶⁴

some anomalies
in the pelvic scan ...
cloud shadows ⁶⁴

a warm wind
through the garden
wanderer butterfly ⁶⁵

First publication credits

- 59 *Fractured by Cattails: The Haiku Society of America 2023 Members' Anthology* 2023
- 60 *Modern Haiku* 55.1 2024
- 61 *Haiku: 30th Anniversary Meguro International Haiku Circle* 2024
- 62 *Frogpond* 47.1 2024
- 63 *Kokako* 40 2024
- 64 *Seashores* 12 2024
- 65 *Hauling the Tide: HSA Members' Anthology* 2024
- 66 *Modern Haiku* 55.3 2024
- 67 *Frogpond* 47.3 2024

tilted headstone
Sacred
to someone's memory ⁶⁶

voices stray
over the cemetery wall
winter morning ⁶⁷

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up early

the garden turned over again
by brush turkeys ⁶⁸

rustlings

in the leaf litter—
skink chasey ⁶⁸

spring heat

the blossom viewers
wilting ⁶⁹

boxing kangaroos

at the edge of the marsh
spring dawn ⁷⁰

bright morning
honey drips slowly
from the spoon ⁷²

fence post knot —
the tiny eye
of a skink ⁷²

First publication credits

68 *A Sensory Journey: Haiku Down Under Anthology 2024*

69 *Modern Haiku* 56.1 2025

70 *Espacio Luna Alfanje* 64,
Abril/April 2025; Spanish
translation by Jorge Alberto
Giallorenzi

71 *tea all the time it takes: a haiku anthology*, ed: Denise Fontaine Pincince, 2025

72 *Seashores* 14, 2025

canguros boxeando

al borde del pantano
amanecer de primavera ⁷⁰

morning fog lifting the first cup of tea ⁷¹