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]

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]

Kyorai's small grave marker fallen persimmons [16]

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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 [45]

dunny
without a door…
the milky way [46]

night wind
stirring the banana grove
a bat's cry [47]

earthquake news
jolts my memory—
the old kitchen [48]

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 [632]

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]

bright morning
honey drips slowly
from the spoon [72]

fence post knot —
the tiny eye
of a skink [72]

whale watching
at the rainbow's end
an empty sea [73]

boxing kangaroos
at the edge of the marsh
spring dawn [70]

canguros boxeando
al borde del pantaro
amanecer de primavera [70]

land crab …
the low angle
of the photographer [74]

morning fog lifting the first cup of tea [71]

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
73 *Modern Haiku* 56.3 2025
74 *Frogpond* 48.3 2025

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