



1 - Allison Durham



2 - Barrett Van

Loved this haiga because it felt personal to me. Barrett shared the story about their mom, and that really resonated with me because I had a similar experience. My mom was a Tri-Delta at ISU, and when I went through recruitment at Millikin I ended up accepting a bid to Tri-Delta as well. I remember when I got my bid, my mom told me, "you're better than I ever was," so I think that's a big reason why this haiga stood out to me. It's also just funny how much I've followed in her footsteps even when I didn't even know I was at times, which I think is why I really like the lines "forgotten scrapbook memory lives through me." Even things from my mom's life that might have been forgotten are brought up in my life because I keep unwittingly following in her footsteps which I think is sweet. India Guerrero, Fall 2021



3 – Barrett Van

I thought this haiga was quite effective. To me, the image this was written about looked like the flowers were reaching toward the moon, stretching themselves to reach it. The text was a nice match, and the alliteration of the "f" sound imitated the flapping of wings while I read it. I thought it could have been a little bit deeper, but it was a nice image and great for a first try at haiga. Nathan Gallop, Fall 2021

I can't really find a real life interpretation for this one, and that makes it all the better for me. I truly imagine one of the characters from one the stories I'm making flying me away. The moon is something you couldn't possibly imagine getting to without a big spaceship and flowers are naturally beautiful, so I imagine it as a metaphor for the worlds I've created. Shay Buchanan, Fall 2021



4 - Barrett Van



*who are you
to pick fruit
from my vine*

5 – Trinity Pesko

I immediately thought of his haiga as one that promotes the taking back of a life, or a cautious protection over one's own life. It's very strong in the fact that it asks why someone should be able to reap the spoils you produce. Lately, I've been re-evaluating my level of trust and vulnerability to people I'm close to, and reading this makes me remember why I do this re-evaluation in the first place. It gives me a purpose to find people I can keep in my life that I would be happy towards when reaping the spoils I provide. The overall felt response I felt was renewed strength to protect my own fruit. Gabe Henderson, Fall 2021

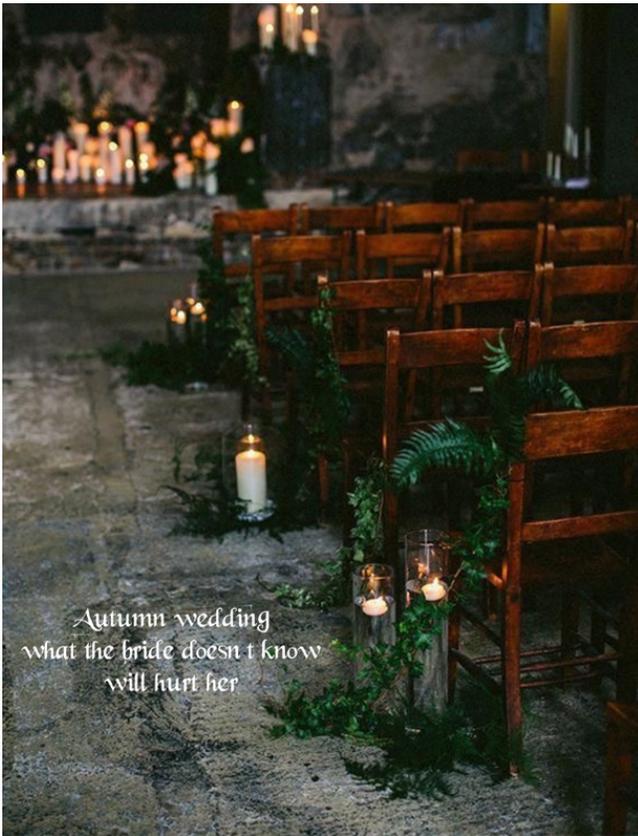


8 - Diana Hernandez

I really like this Haiku because the use of "soul" having two different meanings is really cool. This can either be "soul" or "sole" and both of the meanings fit together even if they are completely different. Also, the picture fits very well as it has people in the air with their hands up. They are mostly likely screaming and they are reaching towards the sky which all fits into the haiku. Reece Brown, Fall 2021

The haiku paired with this image takes me back to Cedar Point in the summer of 2015. I was at a nationals for dance in Sandusky, and all us dancers wanted to do was go to the theme park on our off time. After winning trophies and dancing our hearts out, we finally went to Cedar Point on the Sunday after our final awards ceremony. The air was muggy, and before we even knew it, rain was pouring down from the hot sky, but we didn't care. The thrill of finally getting to ride on the roller coasters got us through the day. Going from coaster to coaster, our feet began to blister, and our pits began to reek. Nevertheless, at the top of every single coaster, we screamed until we were out of breath (quite literally when riding Millennium Force for the first time). It was an amazing way to wrap up our nationals and make amazing memories before heading back to Illinois. Allison Durham, Fall 2021

I enjoy a thrilling ride on a physical, amusement park roller coaster. Screaming my heart out while reaching for the sky are highlights that come with the wild ride. What this haiga does, however, is change the meaning completely by using the word "Soul" instead of the correct English word, "Sole." Instead of that fun, physical ride that is presented, a roller coaster of emotions is presented. The ups and downs of emotions, mental health, and health of the soul are some things that come up when I think about the haiga. The overall response I had to this haiku is the fact that I go through these emotions and hard times to grow towards being a person that can truly live. Gabe Henderson, Fall 2021



9 – India Guerrero

I really enjoyed this Haiga because of the connection between the image and “autumn wedding”. We are placed in the setting of being in the audience waiting for the bride to walk down the aisle. However, the rest of the haiku puts a heavy dark coat over the joy of the wedding. My first thought was that the bride didn’t know her fiancé had cheated on her or done something even worse. The image on being in a church emphasizes the sin. It leaves the readers wondering if their marriage is going to start off with a lie and eventually doom their marriage even before it begins. Overall, the haiku was very powerful, and the image chosen effectively guides the reader to a setting that strengthens the meaning of the haiku. Diana Hernandez, Fall 2021

This piece was really cool to me. I think the author could maybe find another image that’s more effective, but the text itself was great. They set the scene of the Autumn wedding, and immediately I think of my aunt’s wedding. Then with the next two lines... ohhh. These made my stomach drop. Obviously, we all know what they’re saying, and they convey it perfectly without having to say the words. Nathan Gallop, Fall 2021

For this haiku, I pictured a wedding from a few years back between two of my co-workers at my high school job. The guy had cheated on the girl, but they decided to get married. We thought the soon-to-be wife knew about the incidents and still decided to marry him, but in reality, she was completely clueless. This poem took me straight back to their wedding. Trinity Pesko, Fall 2021



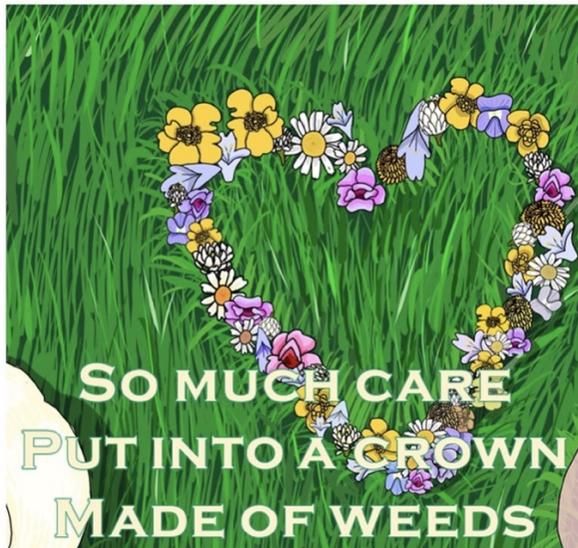
10 – Emily Nicholas

This haiku made me think of a park in our downtown area by the water. Since it was on a lake, many of the trees would extend out over the water. This made them easy to climb. After soccer practice, my friends and I would sit in these trees and relax and talk. This haiku brought me back to those times. Trinity Pesko, Fall 2021



11 – Maya Gomez

This Haiga was very interesting to me since I didn't understand what the significance of the tattooed light switch could have represented. The Haiga was emphasizing the significance of cracks on their knuckles but then drew attention to the back of the hand. Nevertheless, I still find the idea that the wear and tear on our own bodies is what makes us human. I appreciate a haiku that can remind me of all the bumps and scars on my body all hold some sort of memory. Nico Velazquez, Fall 2021



14 – Shay Buchanan

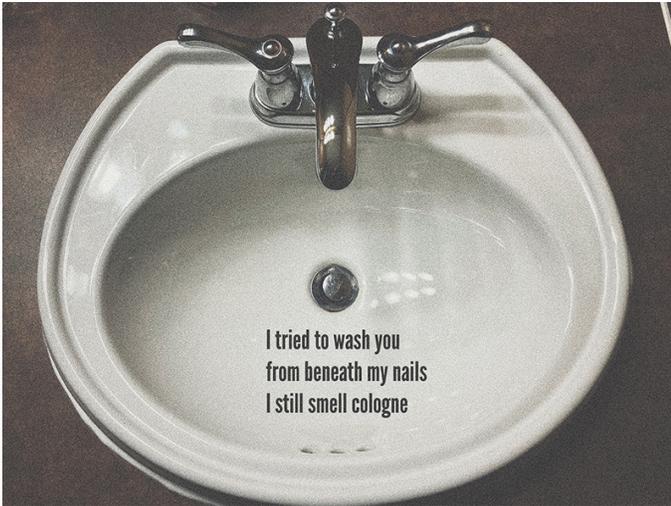
I love the juxtaposition in this haiga. The way crown and weeds contradict each other blends the feelings of this haiku so well. It also feels very nostalgic. Growing up I always thought dandelions were these bright beautiful yellow flowers and I would spend hours outside searching for them to pick for my mother. What I innocently thought was so beautiful was actually an invasive weed. Katie Curtis, Fall 2021



15 - Trinity Pesko

I love this haiku because it paints such a sweet, fun picture. I imagine two people in love. They are hanging out together and are having a relaxing Sunday. They are in their early twenties and have their very first home together. The kitchen is a mess, music is playing, and the windows are open. Reece Brown, Fall 2021

This haiga was so pure. The simple moment paired with the photo just felt like reading a gentle sigh. The author did a really good job of capturing the moment just like Cox described in the podcast. It is the perfect mix of specific and vague. Specific enough as to where you feel like you could be a part of the moment but vague enough for the reader to put whatever type of relationship they want on the two characters. In class there were maternal interpretations and romantic interpretations. Priscilla Sabourin Fall 2021 Priscilla Sabourin, Fall 2021



19 – Maya Gomez

I loved this haiga. The photo looked like an old Tumblr post in the best way possible. I felt the angst of a relationship ending and just trying to scrub the memories from your body. I also felt like trying to wash someone out from under your nails was either after a fight or even could be after sex. I kind of read in more in the context of getting that close with someone and then being betrayed or realizing you've been used and then obsessively trying to get them off of your body. I could even see this haiga in the context of rape – the cologne could be a triggering smell, and if you're trying to fight someone off, you're going to scratch them. I think that actually might be the best context to put this haiga in because this person is trying so hard to scrub themselves clean but can't get over that trauma. India Guerrero, Fall 2021

I feel like this haiga is very powerful and sends a message about a very serious topic. When reading the haiku my immediate thought was a girl was raped at a party or other social event. Often women get drunk, and males take advantage of that. I pictured the girl waking up, realizing what happened and is instantly filled with disgusted with her body. The first thing she can think to do is try to get rid of the feeling of his touch on her skin. She's must've fought him and scratched him which led to blood under her nails, but ultimately, his strength overcame hers and he got his way. The image of the dark, ominous sink sets the tone of how the girl feels. She faced incredible trauma and all she can do is try to wash off the memories but essentially, she can't move on. Diana Hernandez, Fall 2021

I got images of domestic violence from this haiku. The sink doesn't look like a sink you would find in a house but a gas station or some public bathroom's sink. Meaning this person must have ran away after whatever happened. When I read this, I get a story of a woman whose gotten into some sort of fight with her husband and had to defend herself by scratching him. He probably came home from an event in which she might have said something that set him off but he had to control his temper in public. The worst part about this sort of situation that I conjured is that no one suspects a thing from this man who abuses his wife because he presents himself so well out in public. Nico Velazquez, Fall 2021

This haiga hit me in the gut. Definitely an example of the concise strength of haikus (or in this case, a haiga). The first line does not fully solidify the story. When I first slowly read through the haiga, I thought it could have gone in a number of different directions. 'I tried to wash you / off of my hands' would have been a completely different story, sounding more like a heartbroken lover trying to forget the memories they shared with an ex. However, the specific choice of the phrase 'from beneath my nails' is so powerful. Washing someone out from beneath your nails sounds like cleaning up after a battle. Fighting and scratching at the enemy for your life and still having the stomach-turning stench of their cologne in your nose as you attempt to clean up the mess they helped create. Priscilla Sabourin Fall 2021 Priscilla Sabourin, Fall 2021



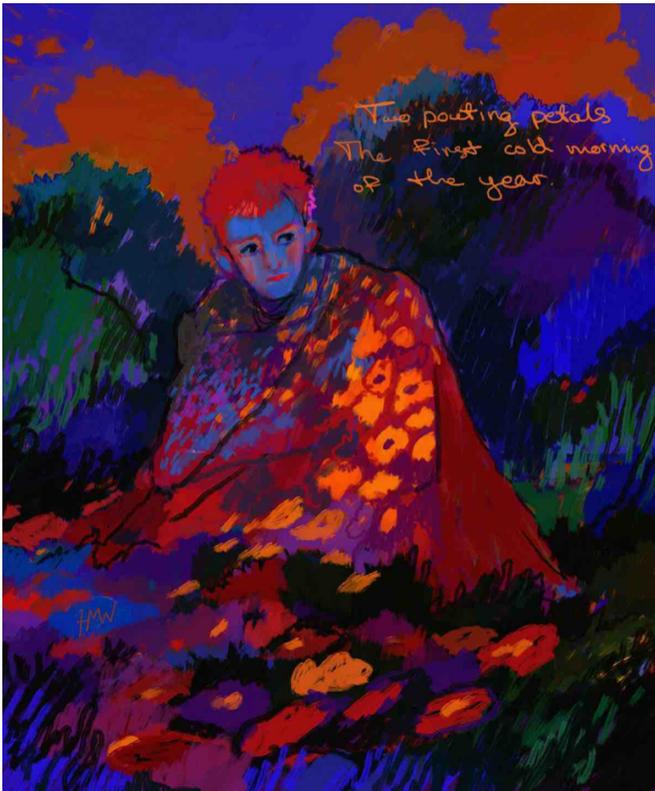
20 – Priscilla Sabourin

I love the image in this haiga. It taps in to a lot of feelings I had while walking around campus freshman year. I already knew where everything was, and I didn't really want to be home, but I felt lost. Why am I in the middle of Illinois now, of all places and all times? The picture ties in to this feeling with its perspective, from a warped, fish-eye lens that makes the observer feel weird and unsettled. Daniel Clear, Fall 2021

This haiga is the perfect combination of the use of a picture and the haiku itself. The picture makes the haiga more powerful than if the words stood alone. The distortion of the picture and the slanted line breaks of the haiku pair well together to make you feel the haiku. It makes you feel lost in the picture. The use of the word "little" also works well with the picture because the perspective of the picture makes you feel small. The angle makes you look like you're on Millikin's campus looking around with no one else in sight. The lack of people in the picture also adds to the effect of being lost or homesick. Katie Curtis, Fall 2021

The use of a picture of Millikin, coupled with the themes of missing home, definitely resonated with me. I know for a fact that I and everyone else here has felt some sense of homesickness while here. I also love the idea of being lost somewhere new, and it brought me back to new student welcome week, when I still had absolutely no idea where anything was, or when to go where. Mason Hoyt, Fall 2021

Okay the first Haiga that I picked actually was not one of my first choices when we originally read through the haiga, but after we discussed it in class I felt like I could really appreciate it for its sense of self and style. This haiga takes a very specific approach in terms of formatting. The basic times new Roman font. The warped picture of a perfectly polished empty campus. In the context of a bunch of COVID students in Decatur Illinois it is extremely poignant and that shouldn't be understated because it is simple. And I think at first I dismissed this haiga because it seemed easy. But I don't think the feeling it creates is easy to spark, so how could this be easy to create. Paul Cushman, Fall 2021



22 - Paul Cushman

I love how this haiga combines the text and the image, especially the color pallet of the image. I love the use of fall colors, such as purple, blue, red, and orange to accentuate the subject matter of the text, which discusses autumn and the year's first chill. I also like the font choice. It looks like letters in fire, burning through the page, which complements the fantastical, dreamlike nature of the picture. The alliteration of "two pouting petals" is also fun to me. Daniel Clear, Fall 2021

The contrast of the autumnal imagery with the vivid colors of the image gave me the impression of the bright leaves of withering trees. I love how vibrant the picture is, and it made me even more excited for whenever autumn actually decides to start this year. Mason Hoyt, Fall 2021



25 – Bailey Banks

My dad used to wrap all of our Christmas presents and some of our birthday presents in old newspapers, and to be honest, I thought he was pretty much the only one. I can imagine opening up those presents on the floor in the evening while munching on snacks I got earlier. It's not quite the picnic the author intended, but it's food and I'm eating it on the floor. Shay Buchanan, Fall 2021



23 - Paul Cushman

The second haiga that i wanted to talk about was one that I wrote, but I have many feelings about it and I am particularly proud of some of the word play in this work. The first is the use of the word fowl to describe the bird echoing the saying foul breath and giving us a feeling of disgust which i think the painting has in the numbed eyes of this woman. And of course, the beat heart. 1.) heart beat backwards obvious but 2.) A beat, a pause, kind of like a breath 3.) A beat down heart giving us context for this bitter taste that fowl beneath breaths gives us. I just really thought about that one for 10 minutes and then it all came out at once. Very happy with the image. Paul Cushman, Fall 2021