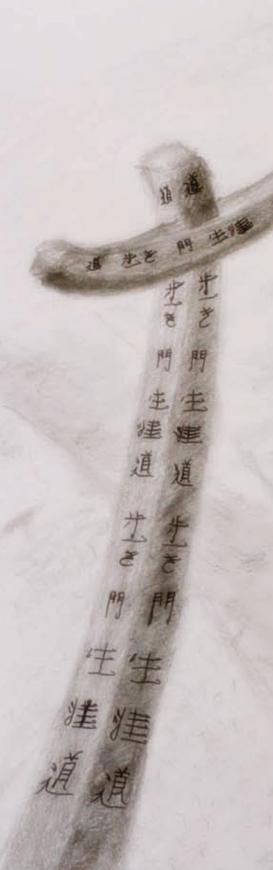
うめがかにかかでる



a woman's body the flowering quince

-- ippekiro nakatsuka

stepping around the moss blossoms yearning for someone

—teijo nakamura

the irises— I break off a stem and go to my love

-KIYOKO UDA

rose fragrance our first night folds into whitening skies

-sojo hino

in the dark where you undress a blooming iris

-nobuko katsura

the fire in my heart can light the withered fields

–KIKUNO INAGAKI

I turn off the light my heart a precipice before the moon

-shuson kato

moonflowers the deep folds begin to open

-HISAJO SUGITA

the body arches at its rainbow peak— "petite morte"

-Jushin (shigenobu) takayanagi

rainy cottage after lovemaking the scent of jasmine tea

-IKUYO YOSHIMURA

shall we die together, my lover whispers evening fireflies

-masajo suzuki

the nape of his neck draws me in moth to flame

—masajo suzuki

longing to kiss-sip your round eyes autumn mist

-DAKOTSU IIDA

sharing this pomegranate with you— I split it open

—takeo nakajima

nights of spring tides swelling within me as I'm embraced

—уозніко уозніно

Loy Hou i

Haiku is celebrated as a concise form of poetry able to convey a singular moment with great clarity. While haiku most often depicts the natural world, when focused on the elements of love and sensuality, haiku can be a powerful vehicle for evoking the universal experience of love. Written by contemporary Japanese poets as well as by haiku masters, these poems share not only the haiku poets' visions for love, but also their visions of the poignant moments that express it.

⁻Artwork by Ioana Grecu. Text excerpted from Love Haiku (© 2010 Shambala Publications), translated and edited by Patricia Donegan with Yoshie Ishibashi. Compiled by Carrie Grossman.