



芭書林

Shinsen 21

(a sampling)

edited by
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&
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(Nagano, Japan, December 2009)

selected & translated
by Fay Aoyagi

Shinsen 21 (New Selection 21) is a new haiku anthology featuring 21 Japanese poets who are all under 40 years of age (born after 1968), and who did not publish his/her first haiku collection, or win any haiku awards, before the year 2000, thus showcasing voices of the 21st century. The anthology features a selection of 100 haiku by each poet; each selection is then followed by a short essay by someone under 45 years of age. The anthology concludes with a roundtable discussion that includes three of the editors and haiku poet Minoru Ozawa (born in 1956, and winner of the 2005 Yomiuri Prize for Literature [Haiku/Poetry]).

The following sample of the anthology was selected and translated by Fay Aoyagi and originally presented on her blog, *Blue Willow Haiku World* <<http://fayaoyagi.wordpress.com/>>. For this special presentation, some of the translations have been revised and a few new ones added.

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the editors,
& especially the poets
of ***Shinsen 21***
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むかしには黄色い凧を浮かべたる

mukashi niwa ki'iroi tako o ukabetaru

鴫田智哉

for the past
I let a yellow kite
float

Tomoya Tokita

空のすぐうしろに咳の聞えたる

sora no sugu ushiro ni seki no kikoetaru

right behind the sky

I hear someone

coughing

鴫田智哉

Tomoya Tokita

鳴り出して電話になりぬ春の闇

naridashite denwa ni narinu haru no yami

**spring darkness starts to ring
and becomes
a telephone call**

山口優夢

Yuumu Yamaguchi

蠟燭を蠟燭立てに置く手套

rôsoku o rôsoku-tate ni oku shutô

**a gloved hand
placing a candle
in the candle stand**

山口優夢

Yuumu Yamaguchi

気絶して千年凍る鯨かな

kizetsu shite sen'nen kôru kujira kana

fainted

a whale freezes

for one thousand years

富田拓也

Takuya Tomita

卵てふ億年の闇冬灯

tamago chô okunen no yami fuyu-tomoshi

**an egg is the darkness
of one hundred million years—
a winter light**

富田拓也

Takuya Tomita

白骨の反りと冬虹と揺らげよ

hakkotsu no sori to fuyu-niji to yurageyo

**arched white bones
and a winter rainbow
sway!**

九堂夜想

Yasou Kudou

冬すみれ人は小さき火を運ぶ

fuyu-sumire hito wa chiisaki hi o hakobu

田中亜美

**winter violet
she carries
a tiny fire**

Ami Tanaka

歩きだす椅子歩き出さない冬の猫

arukidasu isu arukidasanai fuyu no neko

中村安伸

**a chair starts to walk
a winter cat does not
start to walk**

Yasunobu Nakamura

寂しさも僕の衛星冬の蠅

sabishisa mo boku no eisei fuyu no hae

**loneliness too
is my satellite—
a winter fly**

豊里友行

Tomoyuki Toyozato

雪らしい生理が遅れてゐるらしい

北大路 翼

yuki rashii seiri ga okurete iru rashii

I hear snow will fall

I hear her period

is late

Tsubasa Kitaohji

木枯しの壊しては組む星座かな

kogarashi no kowashitewa kumu seiza kana

村上鞆彦

**a winter gust
demolishes and constructs
the constellation**

Tomohiko Murakami

ことごとく未踏なりけり冬の星

kotogotoku mitô narikeri fuyu no hoshi

高柳克弘

**none of them
have been landed on—
winter stars**

Katsuhiro Takayanagi

めくれつつ雑誌燃えゐる焚火かな

mekuretsutsu zasshi moeiru takibi kana

中本真人

**its pages turning over
a magazine burns
in the bonfire**

Masato Nakamoto

梟やいずれの道も帰路ならず

fukurô ya izureno michi mo kiro narazu

神野紗希

an owl—

**every road is not a road
to home**

Saki Kouno

太古より仲間集まる日向ぼこ

taiko yori nakama atsumaru hinataboko

**from prehistoric times
my buddies gather to bathe
in the winter sun**

外山一機

Kazuki Toyama

洞ひとつ抱へてをりぬ冬桜

hora hitotsu kakaeteorinu fuyu-zakura

谷 雄介

**it's carrying
a hollow
winter cherry tree**

Yusuke Tani

牡蠣噛めば窓なき部屋のごときかな

kaki kameba mado naki heya no gotoki kana

佐藤文香

**chewing an oyster
it's like a room
without windows**

Ayaka Sato

時計から時間生るる冬の蝶
tokei kara jikan umaruru fuyu no chô

**time is born
from the clock—
a winter butterfly**

越智友亮

Yusuke Ochi

滝壺に届かざるまま凍りけり

takitsubo ni todokazaru mama kôrikeri

**its shape
before reaching the bottom
a frozen waterfall**

五十嵐義知

Yoshitomo Igarashi

薄氷の割れて人魚の鱗かな

usurai no warete ningyo no uroko kana

**thinning ice
broken . . . and
a mermaid's scale**

矢野玲奈

Reina Yano

秋風や汝の臍に何植ゑん

akikaze ya nanji no hozō ni nani uen

**autumn wind—
what I should plant
in your belly button**

藤田哲史

Satoshi Fujita

紐あれば結界となる秋の暮

himo areba kekkai to naru aki no kure

**a string will mark
a boundary of the sacred place
autumn dusk**

藤田哲史

Satoshi Fujita

東京といふ語は光る羽蟻の夜

tôkyô to iu go wa hikaru ha'ari no yo

the word “Tokyo”

shines

a night of winged ants

相子智恵

Chie Aiko

火星にも水や蚕の糸吐く夜

kasei nimo mizu ya kaiko no ito haku yo

相子智恵

**Mars, too, has water—
a night when silkworms
spit out strings**

Chie Aiko

眞青ナル文盲ノ魚飛ビ交ヘリ

masao naru monmô no uo tobikaeri

**blue
illiterate fish
flying around**

関 悦史

Etsushi Seki

蟻のよるグランドピアノたる私

ari no yoru gurando piano taru watakushi

**ants gather
at a grand piano
which is me**

関 悦史

Etsushi Seki

まだ夢を見てゐる牡蠣を食ひにけり

mada yume o miteiru kaki o kuinikeri

関 悦史

**I eat an oyster
it is still
dreaming**

Etsushi Seki