

see haiku here

haiga book series 2

water

Artworks by
Kuniharu Shimizu



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Kuniharu Shimizu

About Kuniharu Shimizu, haiga artist

Born in Tenri, Nara, Japan in 1949, Kuniharu Shimizu moved to Hawaii at the age of 15. He returned to Japan in 1972 upon receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting from the University of Hawaii. Kuniharu continues to successfully pursue his creative efforts in the arts, which include graphic, editorial, and monument design as well as exhibition planning.

- Artistic Awards include: The Purchase Award at Artist of Hawaii Exhibition (Purchased for the permanent collection of the Academy of Art in Honolulu); 1st Place in Ichiretu-kai Scholarship Foundation Logo Mark Contest; and 1st Place in Japan Toy Association Logo Mark Contest.
- Haiku Awards include: Valentine Awards (2003 and 2004; Special Mention (Heron's Nest); Second Prize in "Best of 2003"(Mainichi Daily News); Special Prize at the Mongolian Spring Festival Haiku Contest in Tokyo, April 2007; and Merit Based Scholarship Publishing through the Cole Foundation for The Arts in The Baker's Dozen – Volume III.

In 2000, Kuniharu started the website project See Haiku Here (link provided below). This is a world wide exhibition of Haiga (illustrated haiku) accomplished through the collaborative efforts of over 250 international haijin (haiku poets).

Kuniharu is currently one of the advisors to The World Haiku Association and Judge of the WHA Monthly Haiga Contest.

Websites:

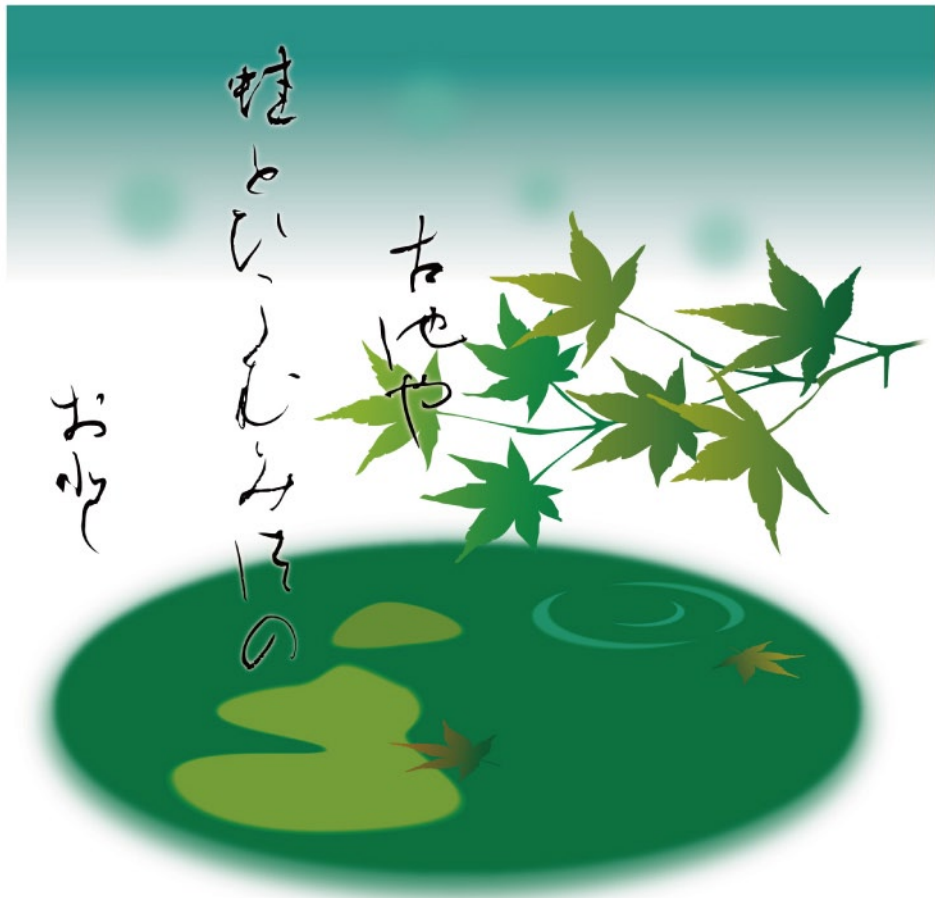
- See Haiku Here Blog <http://seehaikuhere.blogspot.com/>
- The World Haiku Association <http://www.worldhaiku.net/>

About haiga

Haiga is a form of painting inspired by haiku. The term haiga literally means "haiku painting": "hai" comes from haiku and "ga" is the word for painting. It was Yosa Buson who more or less invented the word "haiga". Buson was a great painter himself. With his trained hand he made quick brush drawings and wrote haiku on the same sheet of paper. He called it "haikai mono no sohga": "haikai" is what haiku used to be called; "mono" means a thing, but in this context, means literature; and "sohga" means abbreviated sumi-brush painting. Later, shortening occurred combining "hai" and "ga", and this type of painting began to be called "haiga".

Haiga is an interesting form of visual art; it casually mixes words and visual image on the same picture plane. The haiku poem has its own artistic world with its own aesthetics, grammar (or set of grammar rules), and manner of appreciation. Painting also does. In haiga, these two worlds happily coexist. The challenge for an artist who tries haiga is to find ways to realize such coexistence so that both worlds can express the best of their aesthetics.

water



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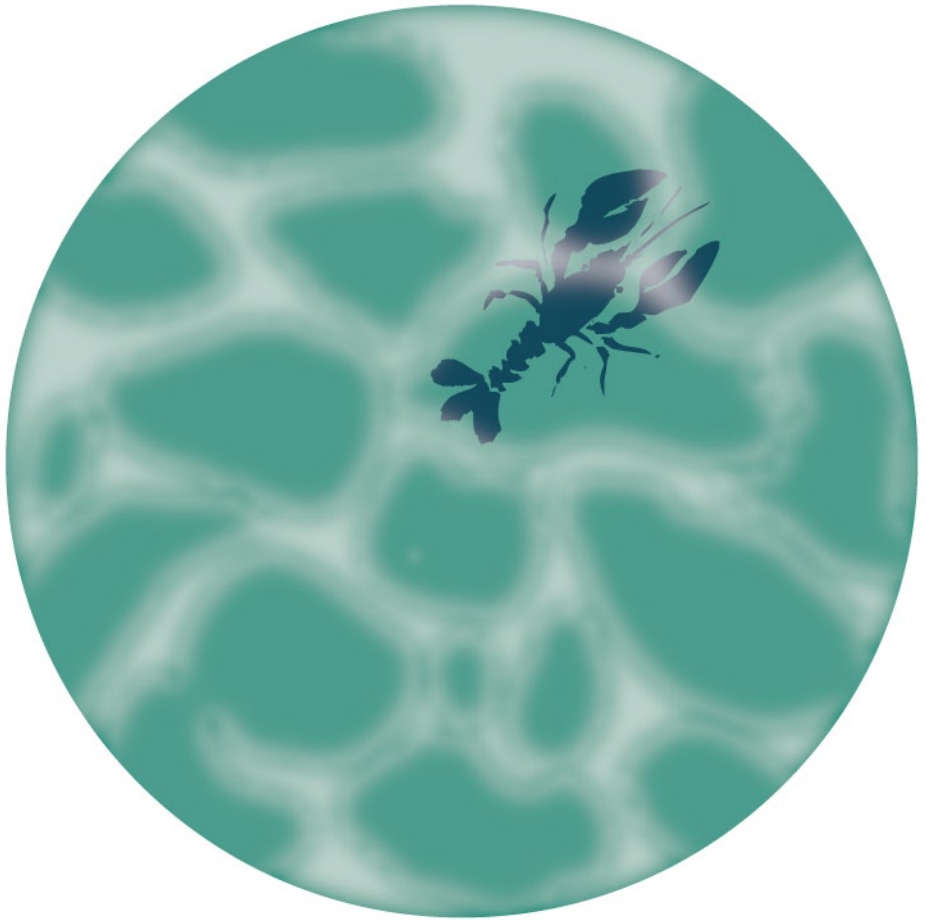
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古
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古池や蛙飛び込む水の音

old pond . . .
a frog leaps in
water' s sound

haiku: Matsuo, Basho (Japan)



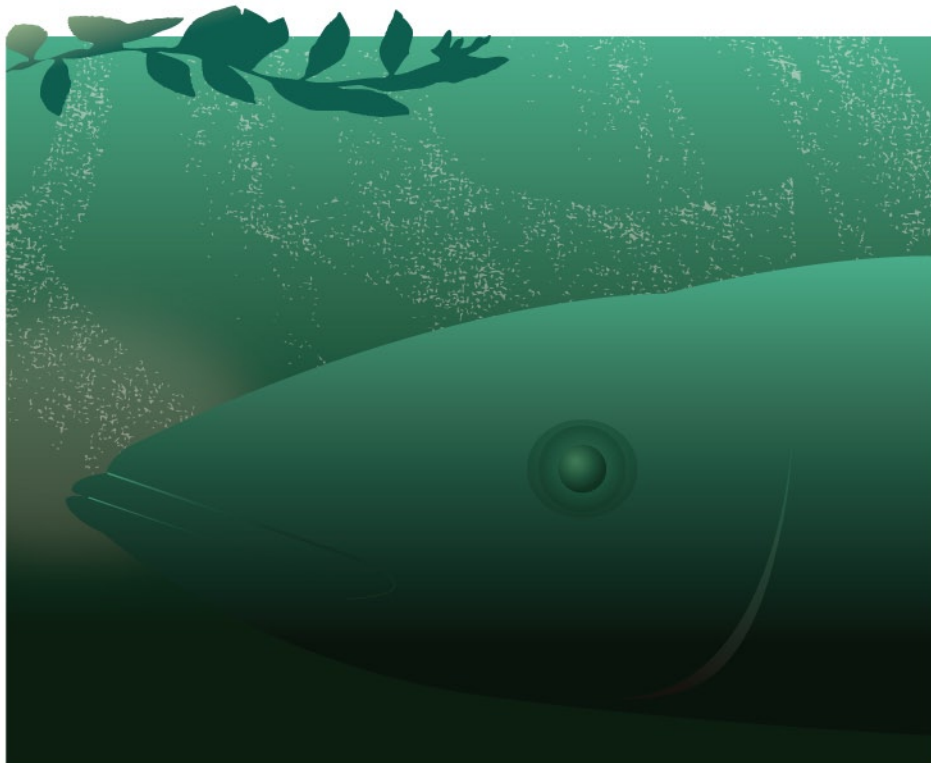
the river floor --
crayfish walking across
a mosaic of light

haiku: Peter Yovu (USA)



ice flecks
on azalea buds . . .
the koi go deep

haiku: Peggy Willis Lyles (USA)



Deep within the stream
the huge fish lie motionless
facing the current

haiku: J.W. Hackett (USA)



群に入る目高素早く幸福に

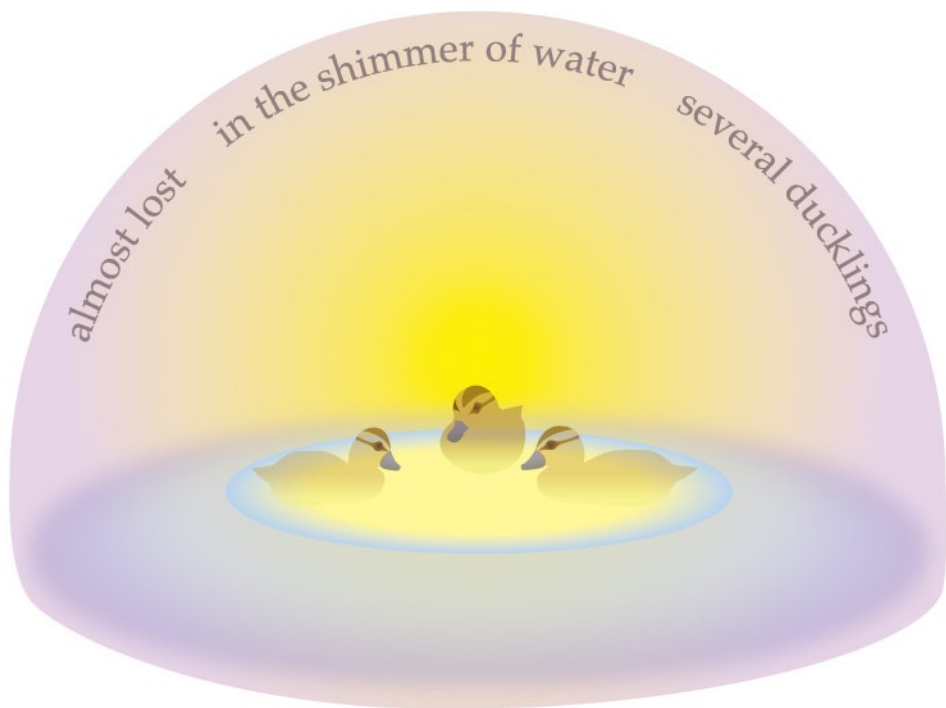
*a minnow joins the rest -
swiftly and happily*

haiku: Kaneko, Tohta (Japan)

*clear water
something disturbs
the river sand*



haiku: Catherine Mair (New Zealand)



水映えて光に霞む小鴨かな

haiku: Alan Summers (UK)



寝ころんで
蝶とまらせる
外湯かな

*Lying by hot spring,
I let a butterfly
perch on me*

haiku: Kobayashi, Issa (Japan)