

failed ~~haiku~~

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bryan rickert

'Failed' Editor

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Haiga by Debbie Strange

Cast List

In order of appearance

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Vijay Prasad
Cristina Angelescu
Roberta Beach Jacobson
Bob Moyer
Charles Harmon
Vicki Miko
Nikolay Grankin
Michael Flanagan
Tracy Davidson
Lew Watts
Mark Meyer
David Kävika Eyre
Irina Guliaeva
Marie-Louise Montignot
Craig Kittner
Lee Felty
Barbara Kaufmann
Lucia Fontana
Richard Grahm

Alexis Rotella
Steven Smolak
Mike Gallagher
Radka Mindova and Daniela Torgova
Olivier Schopfer
Keith Polette
David He
Bill Gottlieb
Bill Gottlieb
Bruce England
Scott Wiggerman
Marilyn Humbert
Stefano d'Andrea
Margaret Tau
Michael Rehling
John J. Dunphy
Peter Jastermsky
Réka Nyitrai
Tia Haynes
Nicholas Klacsanzky
Margherita Petriccione
Tonia Kalouria
Eric A. Lohman
Richa Sharma
Stella Damarjati
Jackie Maugh Robinson

Gail Oare
Jamie Wimberly
Robin Anna Smith
Ayisi Gordon Gullanyi
Barbara Tate
Pris Campbell
Terri French
Hadley J. Jones
Ingrid Jones
Chen-ou Liu
Mark Gilbert
Marietta McGregor
Robert Kingston
Adrian Bouter
Natalia Kuznetsova
David J. Kelly
Angela Giordano
Dinesh Shihantha De Silva
Vandana Parashar
James Chessing
Elizabeth Crocket
Agus Maulana Sunjaya
Paul Beech
Christina Chin
Philip Whitley
Sarah Paris

Terrie Jacks
Kath Abela Wilson
Carol Raisfeld
Michael H. Lester
Rehn Kovacic
John J. Han
Lucky Triana
S.M. Kozubek
Hazel Hall
Oscar Luparia
Nicky Gutierrez
Angiola Inglese
Julie Warther
Pitt Buerken
Gary Hittmeyer
Jo Balistreri
Jill Lange
Anna Cates
Carman Duvalma
Sonam Chhoki
Cynthia Rowe
Kerstin Park
Ivan Gaćina
Marilyn Ashbaugh
Aljoša Vuković
Sanela Pliško

Teiichi Suzuki
Shloka Shankar
Bryan Rickert

gradually
i resemble the corpse
i will be

Vijay Prasad



Cristina Angelescu

folding my arms
one last time -
butterfly wings

Roberta Beach Jacobson

traffic light
as good a time as any
to go

Bob Moyer

to hell and back
forgot to sign the guest book
no bragging rights

Charles Harmon

cemetery with a view
for the living
or the dead

Vicki Miko

young maple
not enough shade to cover
a coffin

Nikolay Grankin

when that time comes
breath—peace in, turmoil out
and take one last step

Michael Flanagan

bury me
in my wedding dress
I'll be my own something blue

Tracy Davidson

Another Place

I am at Crosby Beach, near Liverpool. There is little wind. Along the coast, a hundred cast-iron figures face out to sea. Each is modeled on Sir Anthony Gormley, the creator of this installation. I have been here since low tide and the water is now waist-deep. Soon, it will be over our heads.

no rocks
a life's work
in my pockets

Lew Watts

my death poem
another work in progress...
so just wait for it

Mark Meyer

his obit
printed
out pdf

David Kāwika Eyre

his after, after, after...
I hope
there`s no afterlife

Irina Guliaeva

still hesitating
which haiku
on my headstone

Marie-Louise Montignot

finger suspended
over the call button
a choice

Craig Kittner

confetti
the funeral director
slays me

Lee Felty



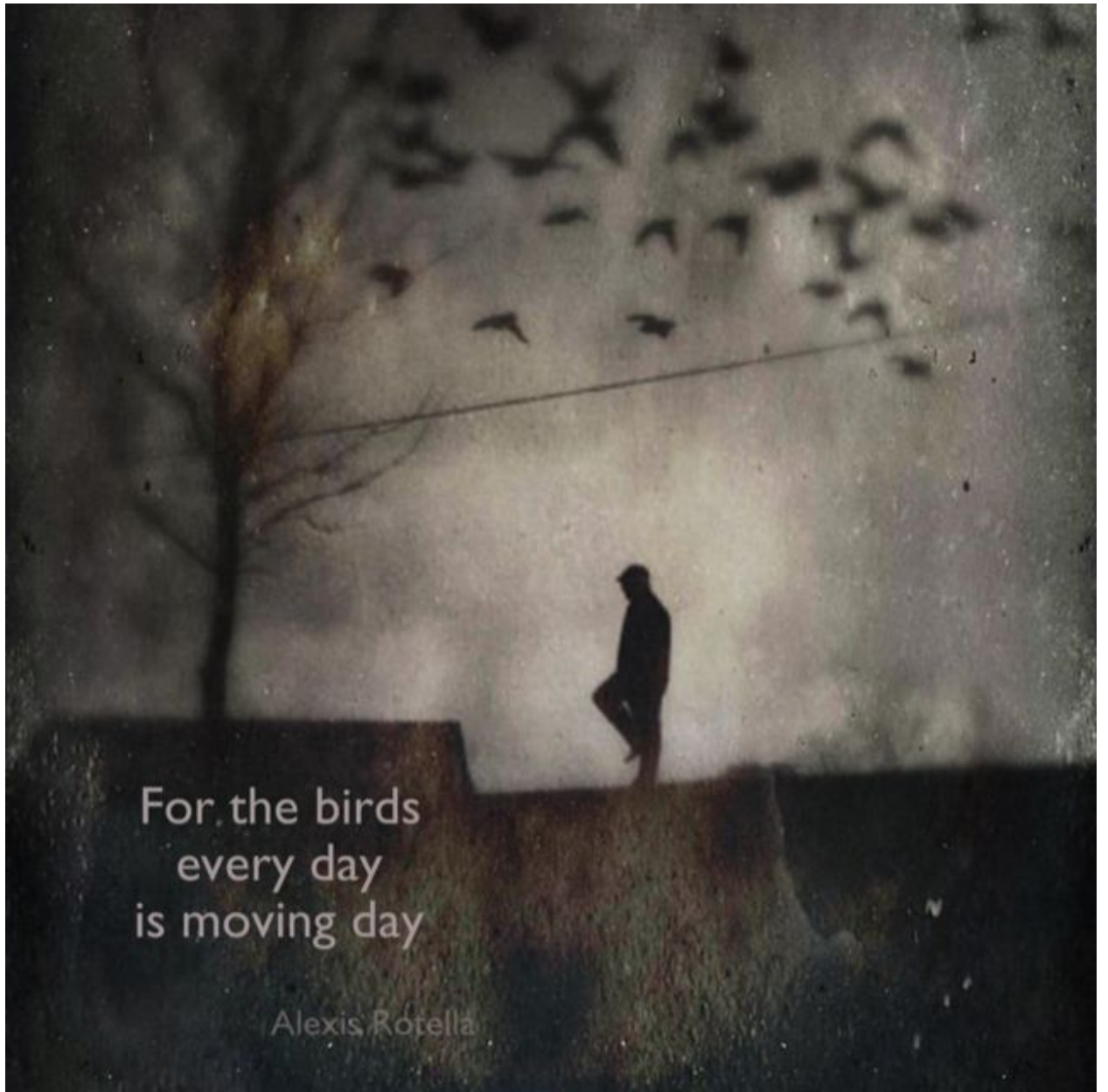
Barbara Kaufmann

dust of a moth
all that i've been
belongs to the moon

Lucia Fontana

these
are my last words . . .
deal with it!

Richard Grahn



Alexis Rotella

for those of you
who thought I went to heaven ---
I did not

Steven Smolak

after the funeral
a family gathering
bury the hatchet

Mike Gallagher



Radka Mindova and Daniela Torgova

laughing children
who will remember me
when I die

Olivier Schopfer

arsonist's ashes . . .
the way he earned
his urn

Keith Polette

autumn chill
a dry plant bears
one red tomato

David He

hospice board meeting
accounting
for the dead

Bill Gottlieb

She sat next to me,
how long have you been waiting?
a few days, I think,
I remember seeing you
always from a distance

Bruce England

my long life
more rings than this
felled cottonwood

Scott Wiggerman

Lining
the cavalcade route
cawing crows

Marilyn Humbert

*nel pascolo celeste
dietro il primo albero
farò la pipì*

in the heavenly pasture
behind the first tree
I'll pee

Stefano d'Andrea

hospital gown
unravels
leaves life behind

Margaret Tau

family plot~
in the cemetery
dancing on my grave

Michael Rehling

sidewalk
a garbage can atop
the body's chalk outline

John J. Dunphy

telling no one
the stone one day
they'll trip over

Peter Jastermsky

crow chirps
from a leaking clock...
death

Réka Nyitrai

my breasts
finally feeding someone -
natural burial

Tia Haynes

summer's height
before my samadhi
I kill a spider

Nicholas Klacsanzky

* In Hinduism, this is the final stage at which the union with the divine is reached, before or at death.

scent of cypresses...
near the place of my rest
please don't smoke

Margherita Petriccione

Plane sputters, spirals, nose-dives. . .
Another tall tail
attracts whale-watchers

Tonia Kalouria

paddles up —
one last bend
in my river

Eric A. Lohman

funeral parade --
i become aware
of the final destination

Richa Sharma

fall's
crimson leaves gradual decay
my reality

Stella Damarjati

[@skdamarjati](#)

winter solstice
the full moon holds back
the darkness a little longer

Jackie Maugh Robinson

funeral service
the family's undivided attention
at last

Gail Oare

sable paint brush
back in the wooden box
my casket

Jamie Wimberly

decomp
I finally lose
the weight

Robin Anna Smith

Sensitive teeth –
gleaning long my waakye, grain upon bean,
for grits and sand

Ayisi Gordon Gullanyi

chemo
the passport photo
no longer me

Barbara Tate

hell's flames...
my devout mother
risks cremation

Pris Campbell



terri l. french, '19

*finding solace
he folds my death poem
into a paper boat*

Terri French

I leave as a stray...
if the nuns show up
send them after me

Hadley J. Jones



spare me the dying flowers on my grave

Ingrid Jones

I plead
for one more day
alone
in a dead-end alley
with the Grim Reaper

Chen-ou Liu

long slow fade out
on the longest day
nothing to say

Mark Gilbert

roaming old shores
only my shadow pauses
for shellsong

Marietta McGregor

distant echo
somewhere in space
my altered ego

Robert Kingston

health condition
they shoot horses
don't they?

Adrian Bouter

the family grave
too crowded to my taste ...
looking for options

Natalia Kuznetsova

another season passes
now I see the beauty
of unraked leaves

David J. Kelly

on my grave
I don't put the photograph-
I will live forever

Angela Giordano

they finally bury
the larger than life figure
in two coffins

Dinesh Shihantha De Silva

dying embers...
a spark in her eyes
and then the darkness

Vandana Parashar

the saddle-shaped
X-ray of my kidneys
with contrast:
no need to ride my horse
into the sunset just yet

James Chessing

obituary
a slow circulation
of the past

Elizabeth Crocket

wilted camellia
in her hand
my ashes

Agus Maulana Sunjaya

eyes closed I hear his voice
crush his hand in mine...
g'bye son

Paul Beech

no eulogies
and anniversary poems
I fold my will

Christina Chin

my cicada husk still clings to the live-oak tree

Philip Whitley

still fresh!
those flowers on the compost
at the cemetery

Sarah Paris

grandma's passing
grandkids proclaim
we can *win in Uno*

Terrie Jacks

downsizing?
my Alice in Wonderland yes
to saying no

Kath Abela Wilson

when I die
my soul takes flight
up or down
for eternity beyond tomorrow
can't wait to get out of town

Carol Raisfeld

when I die
bury me in the woods
mark my grave with a stick
and for the love of Pete
let me rot in peace

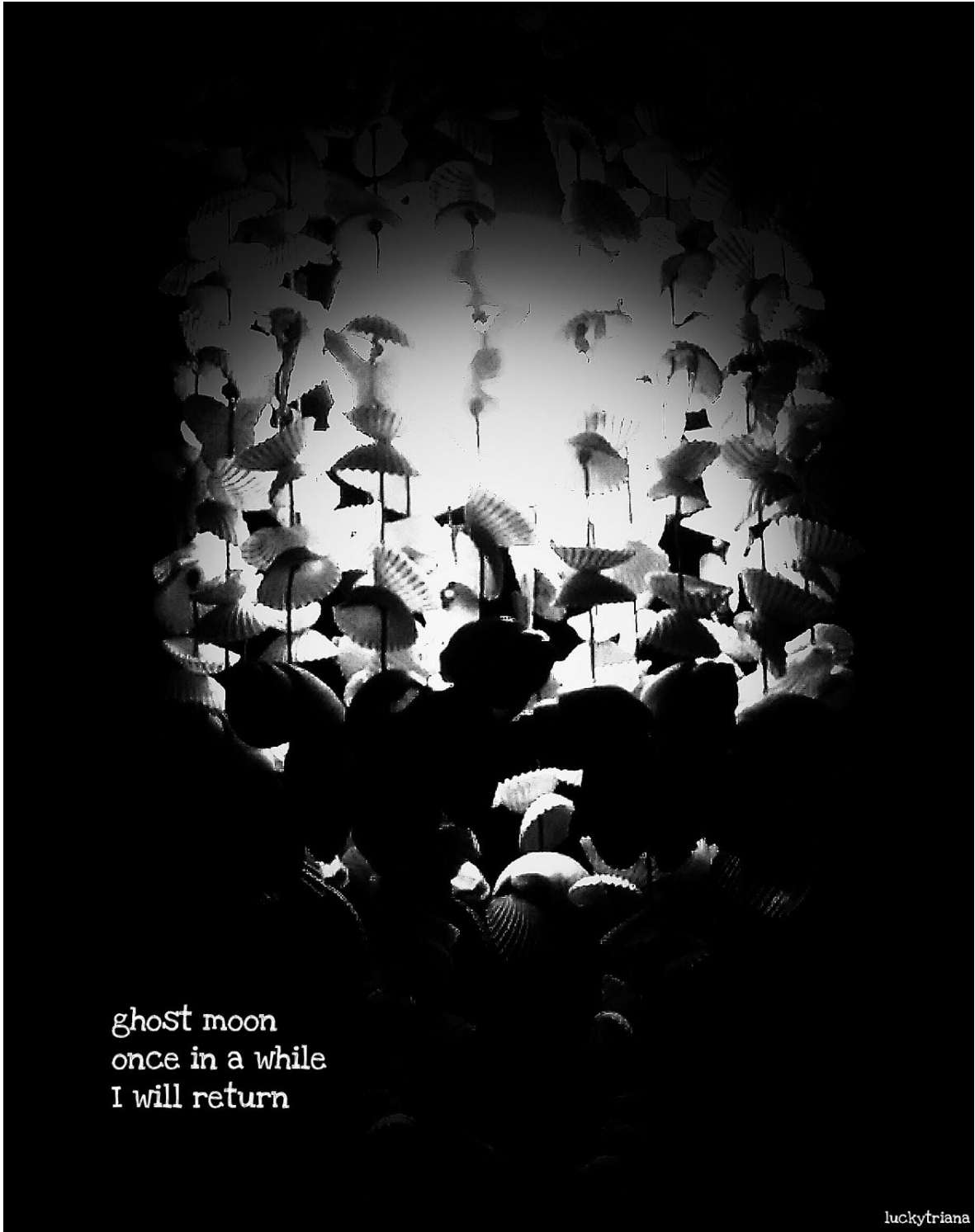
Michael H. Lester

backyard swing set another miscarriage

Rehn Kovacic

death—
the cessation
of farting

John J. Han



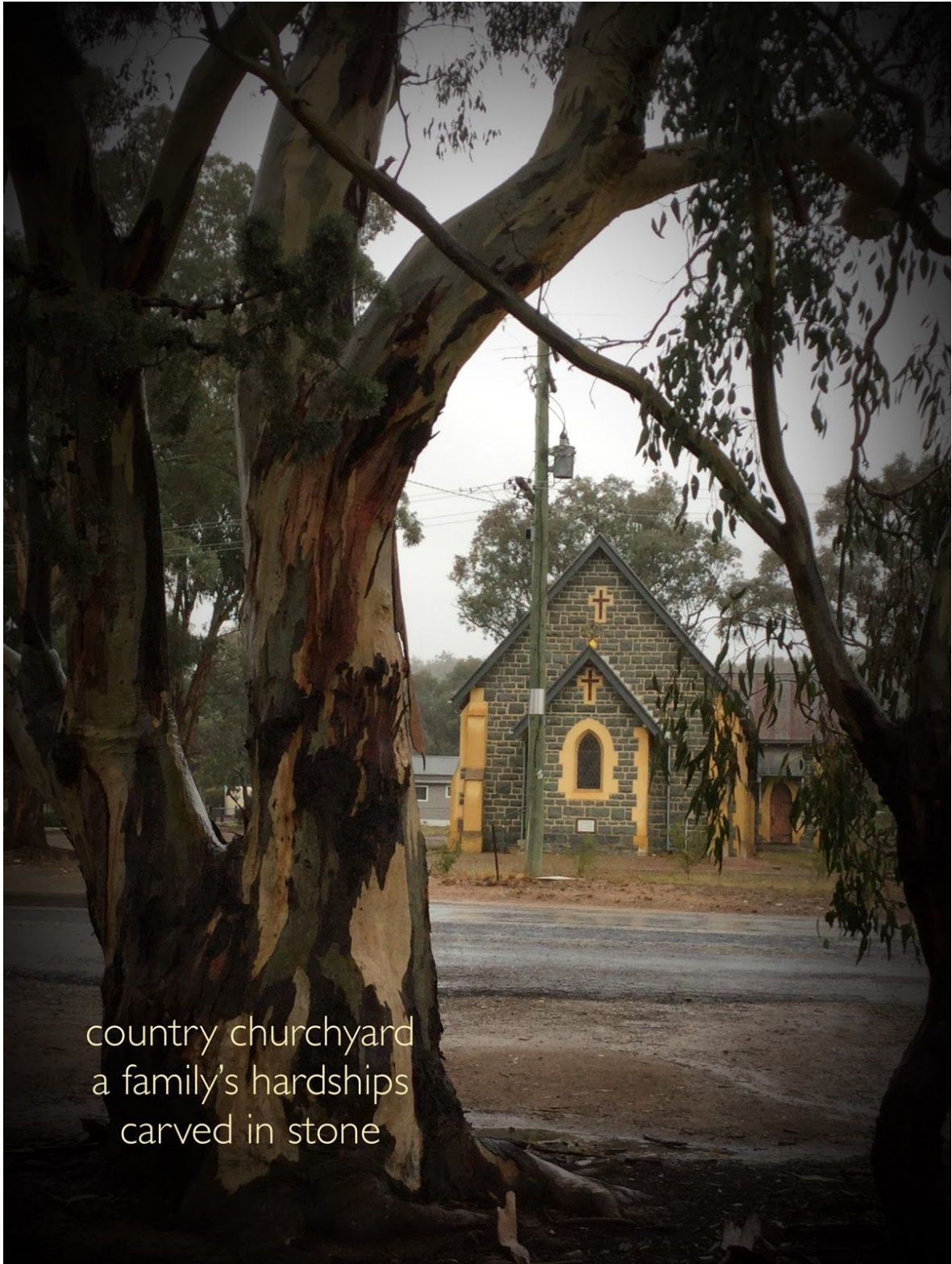
ghost moon
once in a while
I will return

lucky triana

Lucky Triana

nearly dead
gnarled tree
still upright
how I want
to go

S.M. Kozubek



country churchyard
a family's hardships
carved in stone

Hazel Hall

cigarette butt –
the day I finally stop
writing "I"

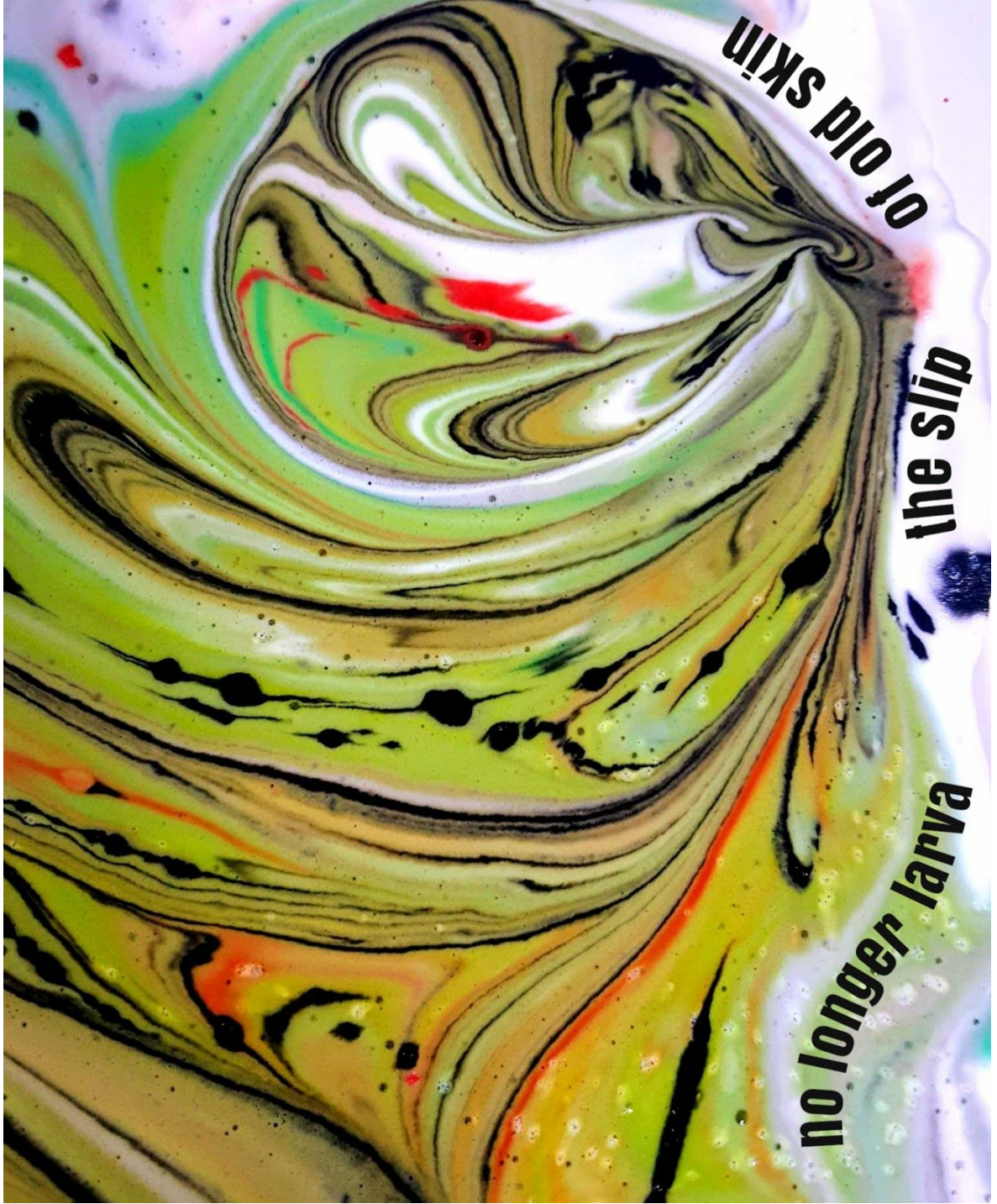
Oscar Luparia

last gift
to my love
cold hands

Nicky Gutierrez

roses
that I will not see wither
autumn wind

Angiola Inglese



Julie Warther

my tombstone set up
I'd like savoring it
myself for a while

Pitt Buerken

meeting at
another funeral
midday gloom

Gary Hittmeyer

among the wings
of monarchs
i migrate

Jo Balistreri

still alive—
contrary
to the photo
on my new
driver license

Jill Lange

Heartland, USA (*sic*)

I

a Choctaw elder
recalls Woodstock . . .
wilted cosmos

II

pilgrimage . . .
beyond old brick buildings
meat processing plant

III

Sirens . . .
a paranoid poodle presses
Its nose to the glass

IV

city cemetery . . .
in the slow-falling snow
a shadow lingers

Anna Cates



Carman Duvalma

moonlit Membār Tso*
what need for butter lamps
in the bar-do

Sonam Chhoki

"Burning Lake": Located in Tang, Bumthang, central Bhutan. It is associated with Pema Lingpa (1450 - 1521), the Bhutanese tantric master who discovered the sacred texts of Guru Rimpoche, the founder of Buddhism in Bhutan.



drunk uncle's passing...
a black butterfly wobbles
through our front door

Rowe

Cynthia Rowe

first frost
in every wrinkly rosehip
a summer story

Kerstin Park

abandoned village . . .
a death notice on the wall
torn by the wind

Ivan Gaćina

last sip of breath
unpeeling the sticky floor
from my soul

Marilyn Ashbaugh

top of the mountain
never closer
to my friend

Aljoša Vuković

reassuring
everyone
the gun is not...

Sanela Pliško

sunset glow--
another world visible
in mandala

Teiichi Suzuki



jisei—
butterfly wings scratch
the gloaming

shloka

Shloka Shankar

I would like to sincerely thank Michael Rehling for allowing me to be a guest editor for Failed Haiku and for entertaining my crazy idea. I would also like to thank all the poets who trusted me with their work. It is an honor to be able to share it with the world.

jazz spilling
from the open door
on the day I die
sing about this saint
gone marchin' in

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