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Stillness of Crows

Authored by Gabriel Rosenstock

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STILLNESS OF CROWS

haiku by

Gabriel Rosenstock

in Irish & English

to artwork by

Ohara Koson

Foilsíodh cuid den ábhar seo cheana ar Tuairisc.ie

Eoin McEvoy a réitigh an t-eagrán seo.

Cóipcheart i leith na haiku: Gabriel Rosenstock 2018

Ealaín le hOhara Koson. Tá an obair ealaíne san fhearann poiblí. Príomhfhoinsí na n-íomhánna: WikiArt agus Pinterest.

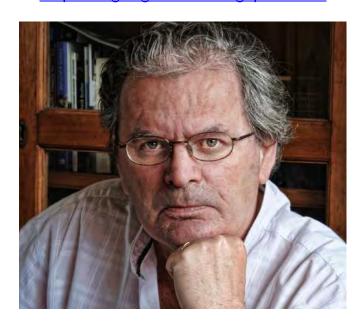
To the marvel that is Paula Marvelly

Gabriel Rosenstock

was born in 1949 in postcolonial Ireland.

Poet, tankaist, haikuist, translator, novelist, playwright and essayist.

His multicultural blog: http://roghaghabriel.blogspot.com/



Other haiku books by Gabriel have been published by among others The Onslaught Press; Evertype; Long Exposure Press; The Silverstrand Press; Comhar; Anam Press; Cambridge Scholars Publishing; An Gúm; Original Writing; Kindle; Brandon; JUNPA.

Image source: https://portraidi.ie/doras/52/1200/

All artwork was created by Japanese master print maker **Ohara Koson** (1877-1945)

Gabriel Rosenstock writes:



"If we look at Koson's crow (1910) eating a persimmon, we see something of the haiku dynamic in its observation. That intentness of the crow, caught in a moment in time, is the same intentness of the Zen-haikuist: an easy, natural concentration upon the task at hand. Its beauty is not simply in its composition, the gorgeous contrast between the black plumage of the bird, the balance of stillness and movement; its beauty lies in its powerful immediacy

and physicality. A pared back sensuality, nothing superfluous, silence and deliciousness co-mingling in a unique expression of the Now. An eternal moment framed for all of us Now and eternally..."

STILLNESS OF CROWS





go dtí seo lá an-ghnóthach a bhí ann – glasóg

so far a helluva busy day – wagtail



plum tree flowering in the eye of a bullfinch

crann plumaí faoi bhláth leis i súil an chorcráin choille



le gach cor is casadh an t-anam á chreimeadh . . . carbáin

nibbling at the soul with every twist and turn . . . carp



clapsholas an aigne 'bhí ar fán ar ais arís inti féin

twilight the wandering mind comes home to itself



thoughts return to first day at school – sparrows in the rain

téann smaointe ar ais 'dtí an chéad lá ar scoil – gealbhain faoin mbáisteach



long conversation with old friends – swallows about to disappear

comhrá fada le seanchairde – fáinleoga ar tí dul as radharc



enjoying the light breeze – small snail on a bamboo leaf

sult á bhaint aige as leoithne – seilidín ar dhuilleog bhambú



who knows if it'll get home alive . . . water strider

cá bhfios an sroisfidh sé an baile slán . . . scinnire locháin



ábhar iontais don chearc i gcónaí – gairm an choiligh

never ceases to amaze the hen – cock-crow at dawn



gorméan . . . foirfe amach is amach a ghreim ar an gcraobh

bluebird its grasp of the branch . . . utter perfection



caislín cloch . . . go séimh! abair a ainm go séimh

stonechat . . . softly! whisper its name softly



scáthán ar ghile is ar dhoircheacht na cruinne – lus na gréine

mirroring the brightness and darkness of the universe – sunflower



tamall leis féin . . . préachán ar an *torii* ag machnamh go domhain

a moment alone . . . crow on the *torii* in deep meditation



báisteach thús an tsamhraidh – guth na cuaiche sular rugadh mé

early summer rain – voice of the cuckoo before I was born



stopann smaoineamh gan áit aige le dul síodeitigh ag bailiú leo

a thought stops nowhere to go waxwings fly off



an piasún glas á thionlacan aici seal duilleog ag titim

briefly accompanying a green pheasant falling leaf



na mílte haiku neamhscríofa – sciatháin leathair faoi sholas gealaí

thousands of unwritten haiku – bats in moonlight



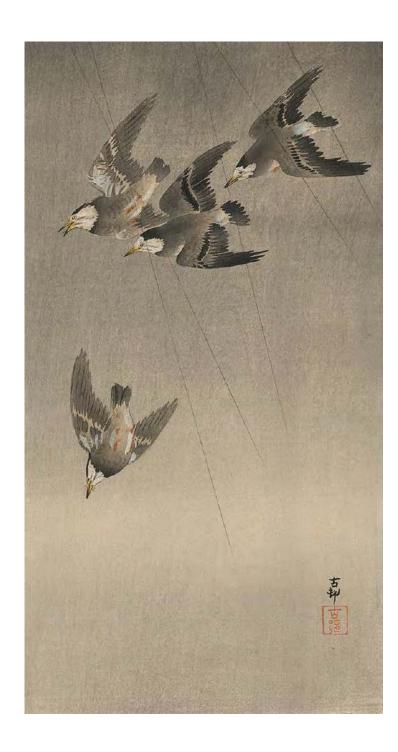
stad den síneadh sin, a mhoncaí! istigh id' cheann atá an ghealach

monkey, what is it with reaching! the moon is inside your head



an domhan ag éirí seanda . . . lá i ndiaidh lae aibíonn an eorna

the world grows older . . . day after day ripening barley



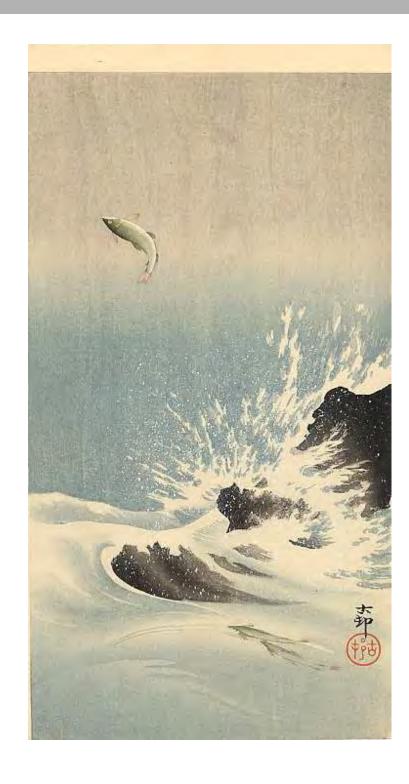
cumha éigin nach bhfuil aon mhíniú air . . . druideanna faoin mbáisteach

sadness that cannot be explained ... starlings in rain



ná bí buartha tá cúis le titim na nduilleog om mani padme hum

why worry the leaf falls for a reason om mani padme hum



lá fada is ansin léim an bhradáin san fholús

a long day then the salmon's leap into emptiness



an chéad uair dó snáthaid mhór a bhlaiseadh gealbhan óg

first taste of dragon-fly young sparrow



í féin amháin atá eolach air misean na coirre oíche

known to itself and itself alone the night heron's mission



cad tá ar eolas againn? tumann an mallard san uisce

what do we know? the mallard goes below for another probe



cad as a dtánamar cá bhfuil ár dtriall . . . tost an phréacháin

where have we come from where are we going . . . silence of the crow



lá i ndiaidh lae an fhírinne lom aige á rá grús bán

day after day uttering simple truth white crane



cogadh á fhearadh áit éigin ar domhan lachain ina gcodladh

somewhere on earth war is being waged - sleeping ducks



ní fada eile ar an saol seo di ná dá scáil gé ramhar

soon they'll be gone their shadows too plump geese



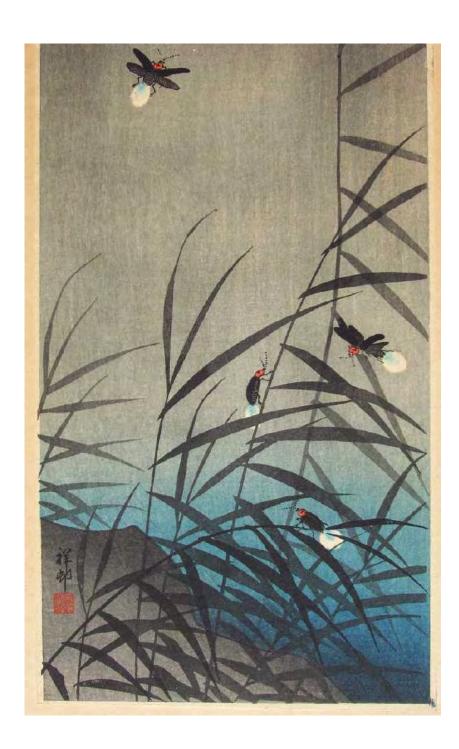
lá eile dátphluma eile saol an mhoncaí

another day another persimmon the life of a monkey



beautiful when noisy beautiful in silence gulls over rough seas

álainn cé acu glórach nó 'na dtost iad faoileáin os tonnta cáiteacha



neach eile níl mar í nochtann an lampróg a hanam

alone among all beings firefly reveals its soul



Tanuki!
will you change shape tonight?
whisper of autumn grasses

Tanuki! an athróidh tú cruth anocht? cogar sna féara fómhair



corra bána nár rugadh fós . . . cáitheadh sneachta

white herons not born yet ... whirling snow



oíche réaltógach aimsíonn éigrit fara den scoth

starry night an egret finds a perfect perch



feitheamh fada na visteáiria – seo anois an bheach fá dheoidh

long wait of the wistaria – now at last the bee arrives



gorméin cad faoi atá siad ag smaoineamh . . . faic?

bluebirds what are they thinking . . . nothing?



grús ina sheasamh go maorga moileasc á dhíleá aige

majestically it stands the crane . . . digesting a mollusc



urnaí maidine gan smaoineamh . . . gan bhriathar

morning prayer no thoughts . . . no words



réidh chun a híomhá féin a shá! éigrit

ready to spear its own image! an egret

81



a crann féin is a géag féin aici . . . spioróg mhór

it has its own tree its own branch ... goshawk



corraíonn rud éigin . . . an chorr ghormghlas amháin atá ar an eolas

something stirring . . . only the green heron knows what it is



an domhan seo . . . an taibhreamh é a shamhlaigh fia?

this world . . . is it a dream imagined by a deer?



báisteach gan stad . . . an teampall féin bíonn gá aige le níochán maith

steady rain . . . even temples need a good washing



is áille é agus preab bainte as . . . piasún

startled and even more beautiful ... the pheasant



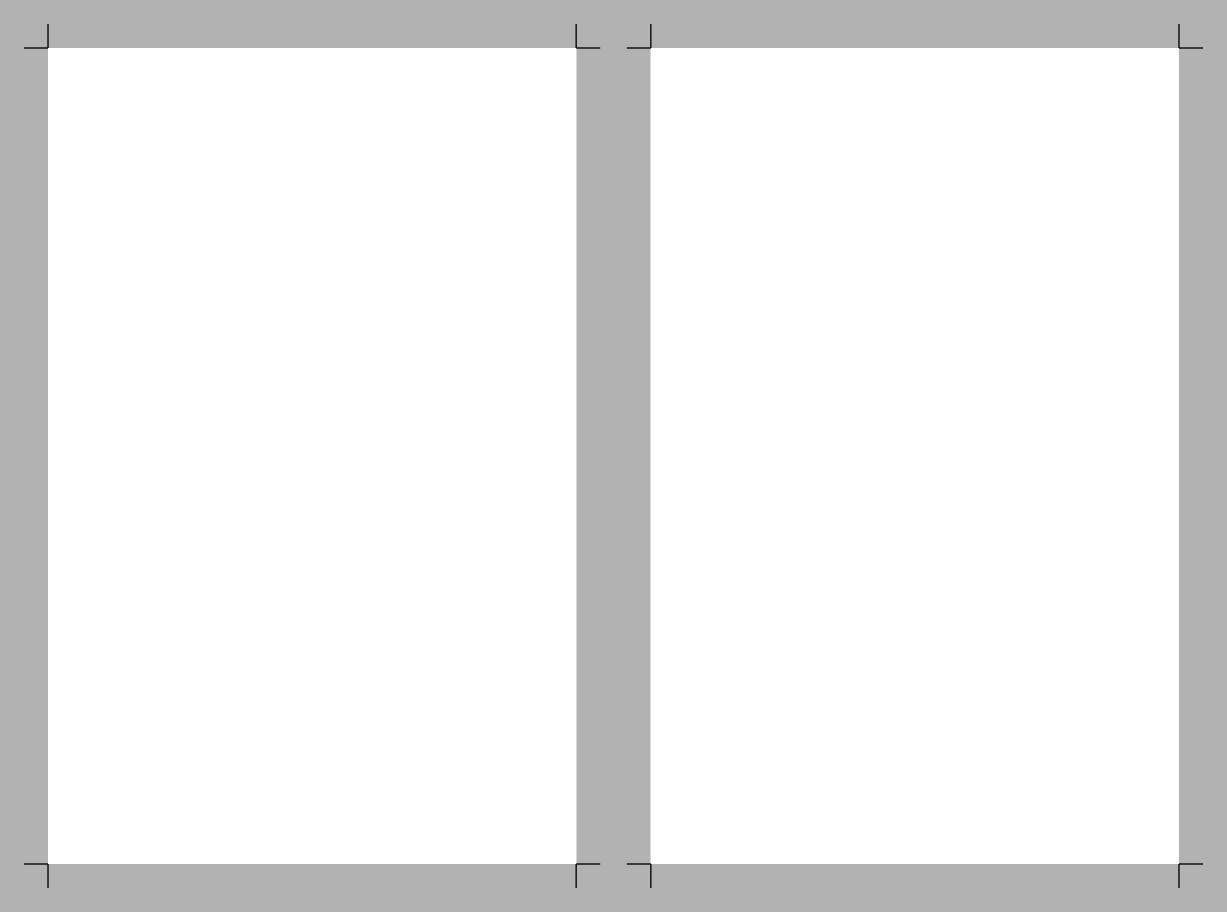
hmmm? squelch of something in a beak

hmmm? rud éigin gafa i ngob . . . glugar

Would you like to hear your favourite haiku from this book spoken in Irish, at a pace set by you, in one of the three main dialects of Irish?

Copy and paste the haiku in Irish into the synthesiser and take it from there:

www.abair.tcd.ie/



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