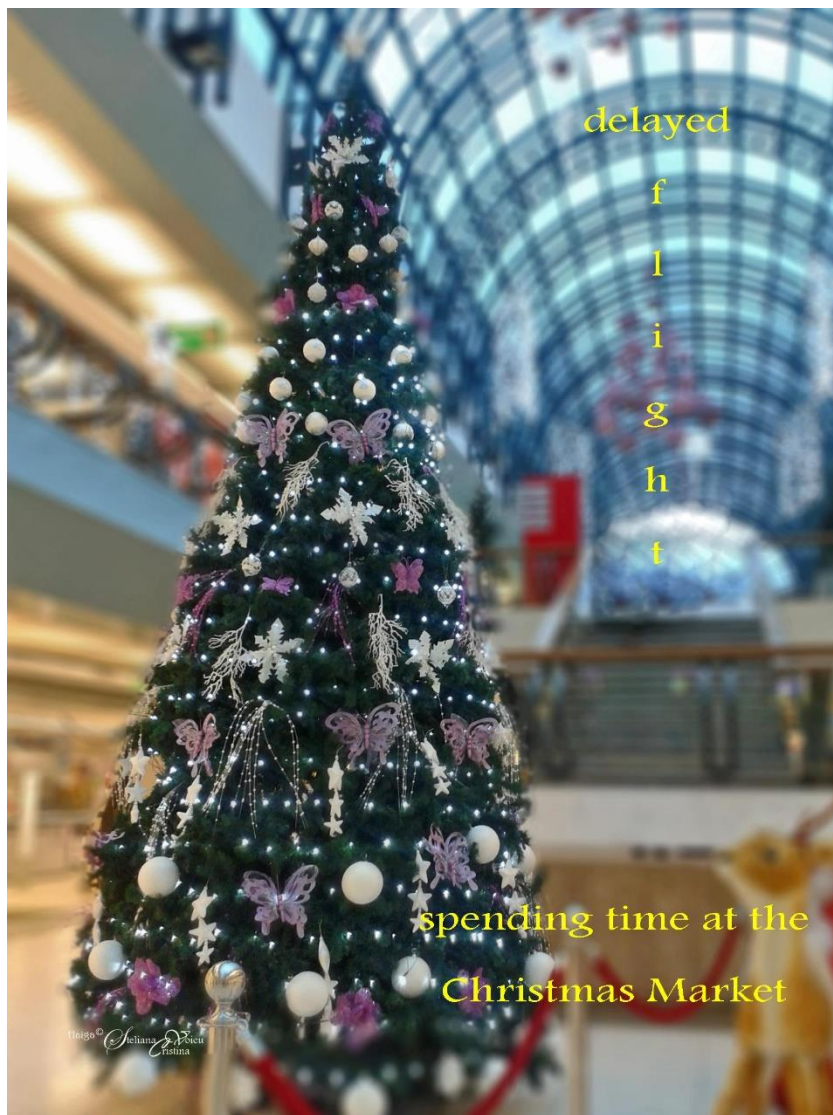




# Scarlet Dragonfly Journal

Issue No. 9 – December 2022

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-- Steliana Cristina Voicu, Romania

late autumn --  
the thorns of roses  
still fresh

-- Maria Teresa Piras, Italy

---

pond reflection  
a koi swims through  
my head

-- John J. Dunphy, USA

---

late November  
the stained glass window  
getting darker

-- Marta Chocilowska, Poland

---

unbloomed plant  
the difference between  
surviving and living

-- Vidhi Ashar, India

---

feathers are shining  
over rooftops  
flights of fancy

-- Minko Tanev, Bulgaria

---

A flash of azure,  
suddenly a kingfisher  
dives into my soul

-- Caroline Ridley-Duff, UK

freezing rain  
the Siberian blue robin's  
homesick

-- Patrick Sweeney, Japan

---

underwater dreams  
this time a grand piano  
in muffled tune

-- Theresa Coty O'Neil, USA

---



Bitter cold morning:  
Through the crowns of all the trees --  
Golden winter sun.

-- Alexander Przybilla, Germany

My eyes adjusting  
To the velvety dark sky  
Pin pricked with stars

-- Jennifer Gurney, USA

---

mirror from dad --  
in its reflection  
my crying eyes

-- Stoianka Boianova, Bulgaria

---

across the ocean  
friendship between us  
only with haiku

-- Nani Mariani, Australia

---

light breeze --  
child chasing  
a flying seed

-- Govind Joshi, India

---

mundial cup  
for the most exotic jewels  
football wives

-- Tsanka Shishkova, Bulgaria

---

November day  
the fog is dragging  
on the slopes

-- Dejan Ivanovic, Serbia

## **Old Story**

(Solo Rengay).

remembering  
grandpa shading his eyes  
to watch the sunset

without grandpa  
all alone his walking stick

ancestral home visit-  
neem tree shades  
without grandpa in coir cot

right from my childhood  
grandpa's portrait  
at the same corner

old family album- I am not  
wearing turban like grandpa

my little boy  
taking selfie  
with grandpa's gramophone

-- Ram Chandran, India  
(a solo rengay)

---

autumn lightnings  
the scars on the breast  
are itchy

-- Carmela Marino, Italy

---

beneath each lantern  
a hot moon pitched against sky --  
endless midnight runs

-- Rudolf Slöh, UK



*overnight  
hoarfrost covers all  
in silver shimmers*

-- Linda Ludwig, USA

---

autumn sky  
schoolchildren folding  
origami cranes

-- Elena Malec, USA

---

lending a voice  
to my thoughts --  
blackbird song

-- Mona Bedi, India

the last pebble  
i cast into the lake  
to love  
with nothing  
in return

-- Alvin Cruz, Philippines

---

morning meditation  
on the beach  
a flock of seagulls

-- Claire Thom, Spain

---

mining fire  
blood red clouds  
hover over maples . . .  
shades of autumn and  
a sunset come early

-- Neera Kashyap, India

---

oncology ward  
half a spider web  
on the window

-- Ellen Kom, Canada

---

the arrogance  
of ignorance --  
my poetry

-- Richard Bailly, USA





*leaves on the ground...  
how long does it takes  
to let my things go?*

poem and photo: Oscar Luparia

-- Oscar Luparia, Italy

---

paid followers  
hitting with vile messages:  
panic attack

-- R.K. Singh, India



Cracked ceiling paint  
Our snow in December

-- Genevieve S. Aguinaldo, Philippines

---

The small strawberry  
tastes sour, seedy, better  
because I stole it

-- Beth Gulley, USA

---

hold on

wait a while  
before you speak

words  
carry the power  
to bind or break

-- Joanna Ashwell, UK

---

the ominous  
ringtone --  
icy hell

-- Hema Ravi, India

---

UPSTREAM

Salmon swim 'gainst tide --  
persistence rewarded in  
knowing it found land.

-- Blesilda C. De La Rosa, USA

autumn leaves . . .  
my certainties  
scattered in the wind

-- Giuliana Ravaglia, Italy

---

the bright feathers  
of a northern cardinal  
in the sun  
how my heart feels  
busting with love

-- Susan Burch, USA

---



-- Sankara Jayanth Sudanagunta, India

roost for birds  
reaching the clouds  
bare winter tree

-- Steve Van Allen, USA

---

quarrels . . .  
the sour taste  
of pomegranates

-- Rosa Maria Di Salvatore, Italy

---

the mountain path  
engulfed in twilight fog  
this journey  
back to my younger self  
one I miss the most

-- Chen-ou Liu, Canada

---

night sky . . .  
war orphans' wailing  
hides the stars

-- Bipasha Majumder (De), India

---

joint custody --  
a girl adjusts the figures  
inside her dollhouse

-- Andrew Markowski, USA

---

lead drops --  
on the Ukrainian countryside  
snow falls

-- Silvia Bistocchi, Italy

wind rattles the panes --  
looking out into the dark  
I see nothing

-- Sally Quon, Canada

---

racing across fields  
jumping the hawthorn hedges  
horse-shaped cloud shadows

-- Matthew Edgeworth, UK

---



dancing  
on  
this  
path  
one  
smile  
after  
another

Norma Bradley

-- Norma Bradley, USA



another doctor  
the waiting  
the waiting

-- Joshua St. Claire, USA

---

grinding ink smooth circles of chi

-- Geethanjali Rajan, India

---



-- Lisa Reynolds, Canada  
Photo: Barbara Baker, Canada



my heart shatters  
Into a thousand pieces  
the day you succumb  
to eternal sleep  
gone forever . . . forever

-- Shirley Cahayom, USA

---

on the war lights  
and on Christmas lights ...  
same moon

-- Lucia Cardillo, Italy

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### **Marginalia**

nursing home garden  
a blackbird pulls a worm  
from the soil

*shredding a lifetime's  
worth of paperwork*

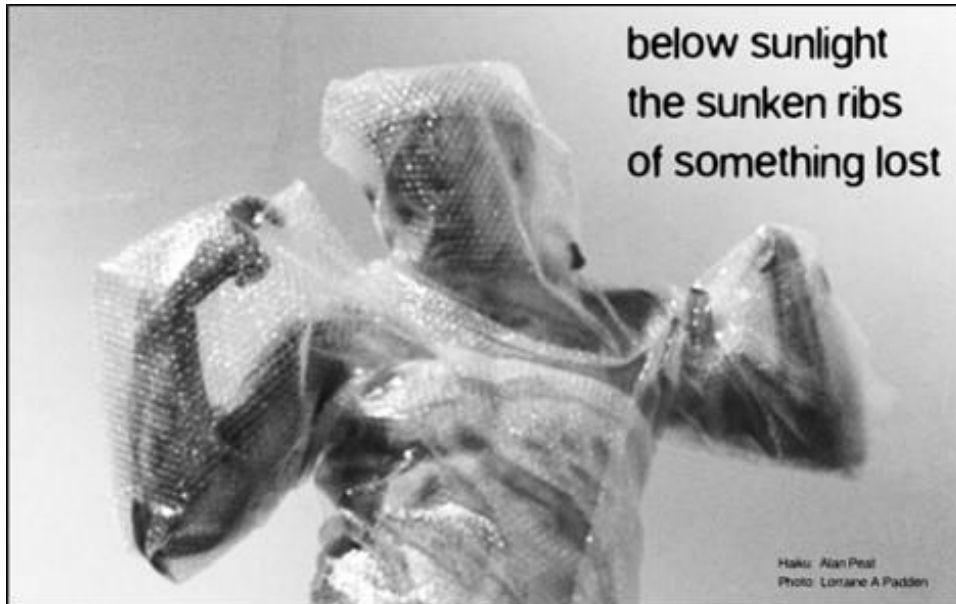
midwinter  
I find more poems  
to burn

*marginalia  
my mother-in-law's  
sour feelings*

the taste of lemon  
on her fingertips

*all day rain  
shapes in the carpet  
where furniture sat*

-- John McManus, UK / Kirsten Cliff Elliot, UK



-- Alan Peat, UK  
*Photo: Lorraine A Padden, USA*

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the dowager's waxy smile  
glows from her coffin  
brighter than all her daughters

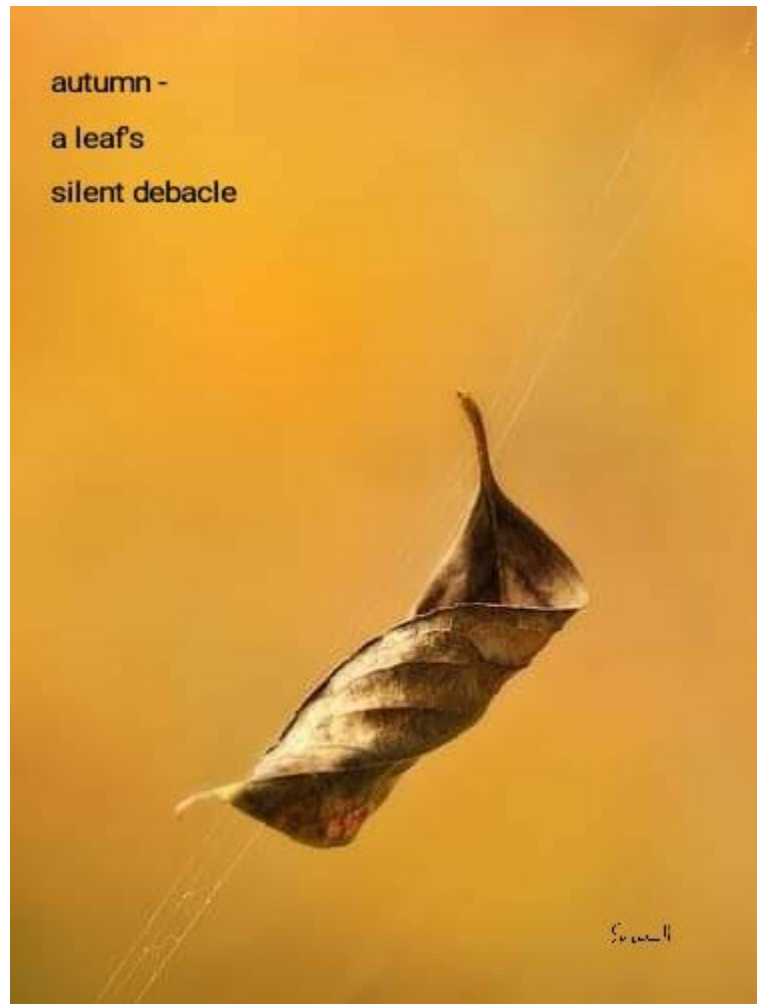
we servants join  
dropping roses on her casket  
to keep it ever closed

-- Tyson West, USA

---

Online dating:  
I press Send and find  
a husband

-- Jenny Shepherd, UK



-- Sreenath, India  
Photo by ajps on flickr

---

inserting a dash  
between my lines --  
comfort zone

-- A.J. Anwar, Indonesia

---

squirrel up on hind legs  
bids his home of trees farewell --  
new subdivision

-- Peggy T. Rush, USA

winter  
a suitcase  
in the attic

-- Robert Witmer, Japan

---

uphill trek --  
the new moon  
walking us home

-- Amoolya Kamalnath, India

---

fading sunset . . .  
the flash  
of a wind horse

-- Theresa A. Cancro, USA

---



-- Lavana Kray, Romania

oceans of time

ancient stones  
begin to chant

she takes  
a bow  
in a sacred temple

-- Sharon Ferrante, USA

---

old tapestries  
stories lost in the time  
of their fading

-- Mike Gallagher, Ireland

---

### **Live streaming**

waterfall . . .  
the time it takes her  
to say yes

*in the spray  
splashes of rainbow*

blind love  
a salmon  
leaps upriver

*below the long-tongued room  
a heron  
still*

the Frost Moon sets  
on her finger

*drowning  
a damselfly --  
whirlpool*

-- Sébastien Revon, Ireland / Ann Smith, UK



*winter pond the feathers left behind*



*– Ella Aboutboul*

-- Ella Aboutboul, UK

---

Aping Cardinal,  
a red leaf catches a branch  
& my fickle gaze.

-- Jeff Blackman, Canada

---

sorrow and bouquet --  
struggling to celebrate  
someone else's joy

-- David Josephsohn, USA

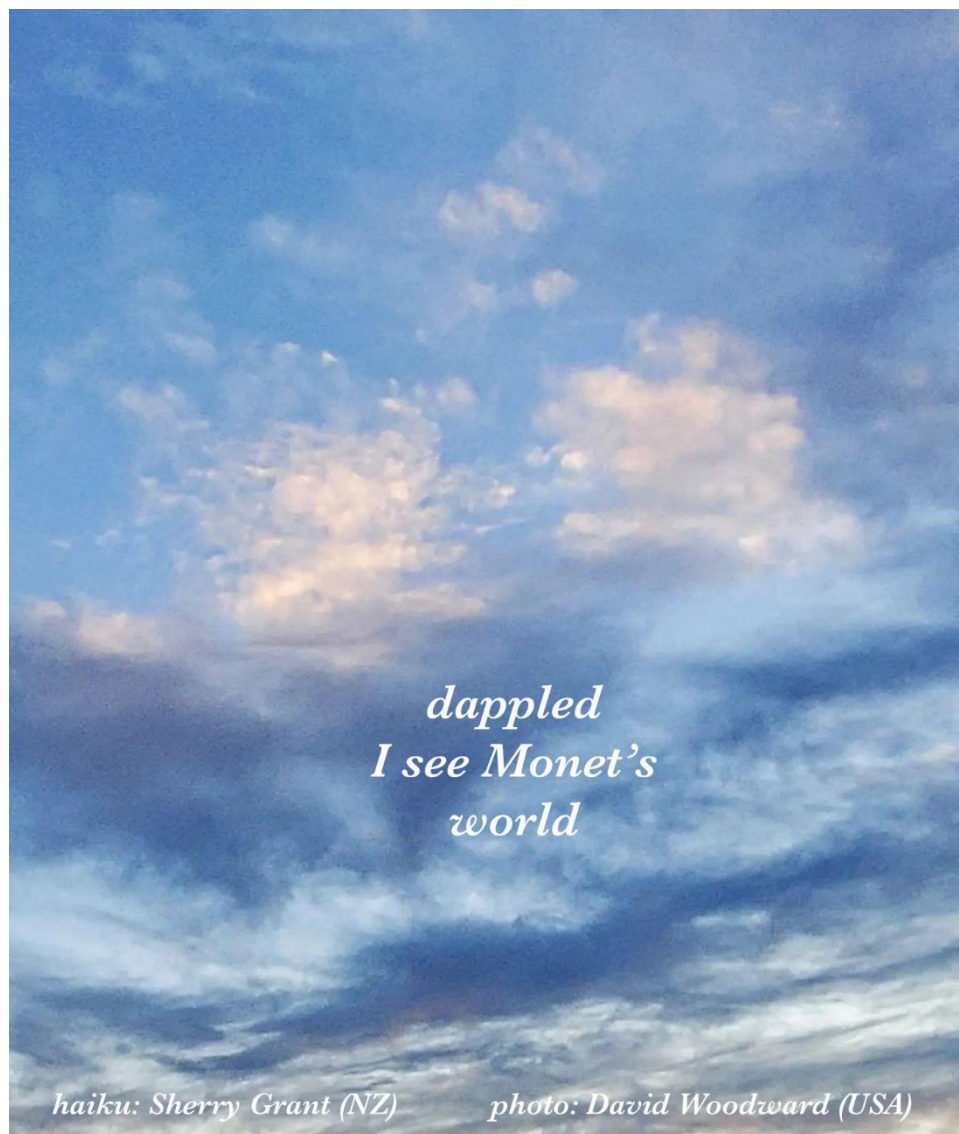
nip in the bud

waterless vase  
petals now withered

he loves me  
i love him  
naught

-- Lorelyn De la Cruz Arevalo, Philippines

---



*dappled  
I see Monet's  
world*

*haiku: Sherry Grant (NZ)*

*photo: David Woodward (USA)*

-- Sherry Grant, New Zealand

Christmas eve  
special prayer words  
no more war . . .  
children all over the world  
pointing at fireworks

-- Nani Mariani, Australia

---



sunlight brings  
a glow to winter dunes  
so soft  
the way your eyes dance  
when you laugh

bkaufmann

-- Barbara Kaufmann, USA

---

### **The Color Red**

a fir tree  
in the maple forest  
forever  
green . . .  
melancholy

*dressing up drab clothes  
with Christmas bling  
I feel like singing*

-- Mariko Kitakubo, Japan / Deborah P Kolodji, USA

## Sky Lights

a gray day  
looking forward to rain  
the upcoming week...  
sparrows hiding somewhere  
singing their feisty songs

*remembering  
the voice of Mt Fuji  
a bush warbler  
as clouds obscure mountains  
I mimic its call*

long-awaited rain  
pitter-patters  
onto the pavement...  
a slumbering muse  
awakens to its song

*relieved  
to hear our roaring skylight  
so easy now  
to find my way through  
the rest of the poem*

morning after rain...  
soon the sun will dry  
this bus bench  
as you rid all traces  
of our rendezvous

*how brilliant  
this day after the storm  
still cold but sunny  
we walk early stay longer  
and make new plans*

staying home  
on Veteran's Day  
outside the window  
a rectangular sky  
surrounded by buildings

*Georgia O'Keefe  
painting the inside of blooms  
a desert window  
looks out at the moon  
between skyscrapers*



silent night  
humming first carol  
for my unborn baby

-- Cezar Ciobica, Romania

---



PERSPECTIVE —  
THE WAY WE FRAME  
OUR NARRATIVES



-- Bill Waters, USA



Impersonator  
In winter sorrow  
a new mirror

-- Maria Cristina Pulvirenti, Italy

---

she comes to me  
with a vase of violets  
and fragrance  
arranging our lives  
on a day that comes but once

-- Tim Happel, USA

---

drawn by her sweet scent  
i stare with verve at a rose  
on a hearth of leaves

-- Anita Bacha, Mauritius

---

Belly rolls of clouds  
bulging beneath grey skin – no  
pink sunset tonight.

-- Mary Sayler, USA

---

hot tea  
ungrateful fate  
of the snowman

-- Mircea Moldovan, România

---

i take with me  
old memories --  
pink chrysanthemums

-- Mauro Battini, Italy

midnight snack  
a pantry full  
of nothing to eat

-- Chris Langer, USA

---

dug up garden  
invisible to the blackbird  
a worm of doubt

-- Ivan Georgiev, Germany

---

### **Buddhism**

fiddles with fixing  
ancient genetic baggage  
such as aggression

-- Gerard Sarnat, USA

---

a sneeze --  
cinnamon powder  
in hot coffee

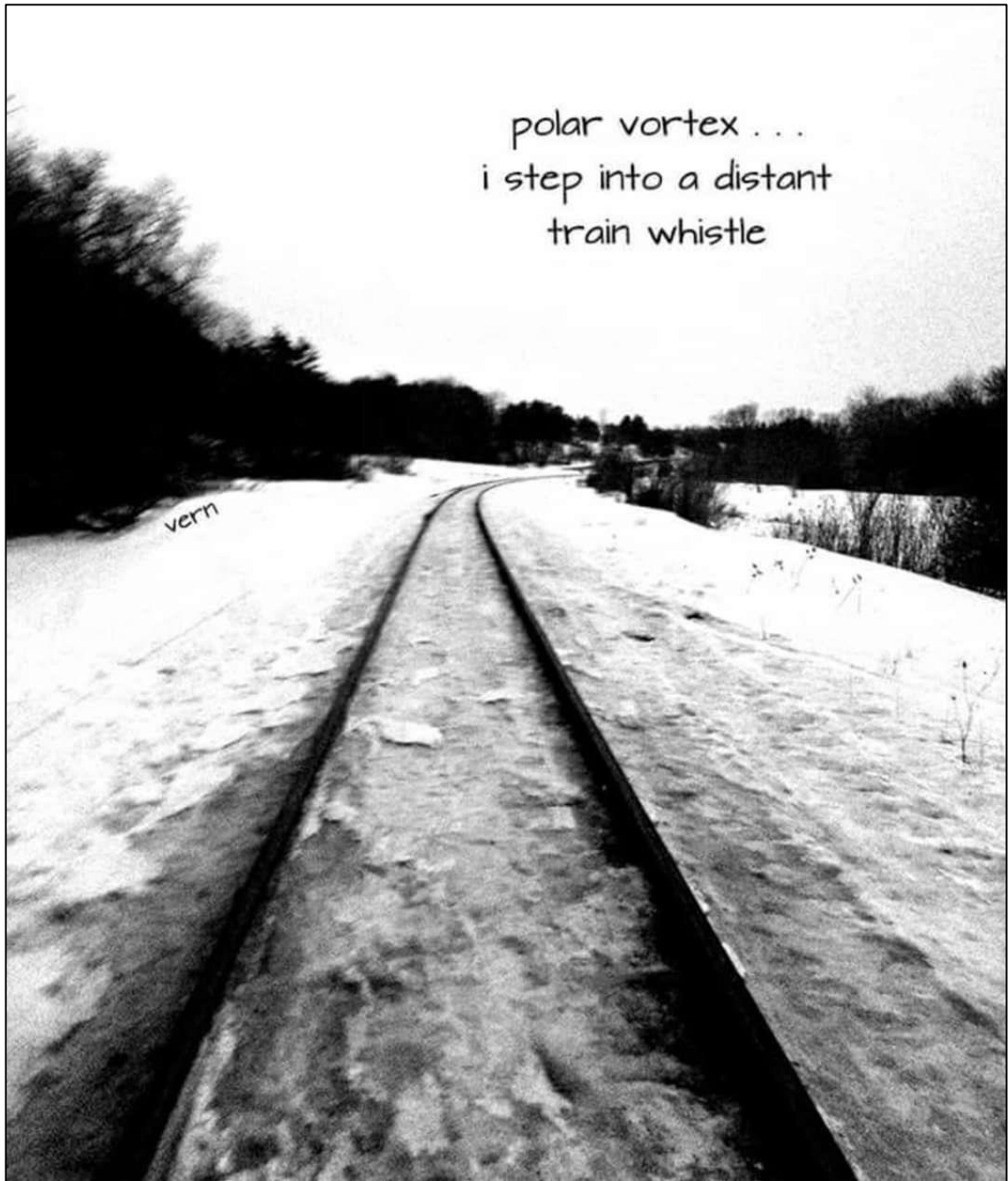
-- Angiola Inglese, Italy

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hourglass  
the tight screws  
on a dress form

*ticking off the flaws*  
*body perfect*

-- Lorraine Padden, USA / Peter Jastermsky, USA



-- Veronika Zora Novak, Canada

Orion  
on the twelfth night

*ivy leaves turned red  
waiting for her  
to say yes*

-- Christina Chin, Malaysia / M. R. Defibaugh, USA

---

wild sea  
stretching out to Donegal  
the Milky Way

-- Lori Kiefer, UK

---

her look  
mesmerizes me  
and I reveal  
all the things about myself  
that I didn't tell ever before

-- Pitt Buerken, Germany

---

New Year's Eve  
fragrance of lilies  
from a store

-- Ellen Grace Olinger, USA



-- Debbie Strange, Canada