

2018 Judge: Mike Montreuil

This year's winners and honourable mentions are about life, past, present and future. It is an appropriate theme considering the conflict throughout the world.

1st Place:

This haiku kept calling me back and the more I read, the more I found. The fact that we do not know the gender of the poet adds the initial layer of understanding. One can assume the loss of a spouse or perhaps a close friend. Of course the walk is then, indeed, solitary. Perhaps, the person who has died due to the illness was a "strong" person physically and mentally.

Or could it be that the poet has had a long illness and he can no longer be what he/she was in the past. At a certain time in our life, we are no longer bullet proof.

Maybe, the author has lost his faith in his journey of life.

One can make these assumptions using the first line of the haiku. But, we enter the world of metaphors. I can now hear the purists condemning the haiku for the use of metaphor. How else can loss, whether from the loss of a person, etc., be explained so precisely by the sight of fallen majestic redwoods. Redwoods are symbols of strength and of the beauty of a world that is slowly dying itself. That too is another interpretation to consider.

2nd Place:

This is the sort of haiku that could be a closing scene of an old movie. All is well in the grandfather's world, fall has arrived at his farm and it's time to call in the cows for the night. Perhaps, it's a cover from the Evening Post with an illustration by Norman Rockwell. A voice of authority in a simpler time.

3rd Place:

Whether we are having a victory parade, a Veteran's Day or Remembrance Day, this haiku reminds us of what soldiers, young and old, maimed or in their twilight years, endured to keep their countries safe against the forces of tyranny. While some may take offence to the word tyranny, it still exists. And somewhere in the world there will still be victory parades and remembrances.



Mike Montreuil lives the retired life in Ottawa, Ontario. He is editor of the Haiku Canada Review and co-editor of the French Tanka journal *Cirrus: Tankas de nos jours*.

The Betty Drevniok Award, established by Haiku Canada in memory of Betty Drevniok, past president of the society and one of its founders, is held annually. Haiku must be unpublished and not under consideration elsewhere.

Please go to the Haiku Canada website for information on submissions for the 2019 awards.

*The
Betty Drevniok
Award
2018*



These forests were created using Katie Holten's **Tree font**. The large trees are Redwoods, using the letter 'r'.