

FIRST PRIZE: a stop sign...

Perhaps, as a resident of the Yukon Territory, I am drawn to this reference to the Arctic. There is no particular season in this political & timely poem that asks (for me) the question, what else is unyielding? The response can be positive or negative, depending on one's personal beliefs, & what the reader ascribes to "the wind" – are these the winds of change? Are indigenous rights being recognized & respected? Or is the establishment, the status quo, unyielding? This poem contains everything I am looking for – no judgment, no indication of a "right" answer, & a new way to think about things with each re-reading...

SECOND PRIZE: first snowdrops – ...

This poem is grounded in the natural world. As many will know, snowdrops are flowers that are said to be the first to bloom in spring, even while there is still snow on the ground. The juxtaposition here with "songs on repeat" forms a wonderful association for me that illustrates how the seasons of each & every year repeat, one after the other, & how the natural world displays this for us to enjoy. Perhaps each season is my favorite until the next one comes along...

THIRD PRIZE: moonlit...

The images & the humour of this poem kept returning to me – such a beautiful scene! The energy of the moonlight & the charging, the otherworldly glow of the cell phone screens lighting up – & of course, just outside the frame of the poem, there they are – two people side by side...

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

I am beginning to believe that judging results tell as much about the judge as anything... it will be clear to the reader that I enjoy humour, as well as political content in a haiku. I look for ripples of resonance that continue to haunt long after the poem is read. The selected poems went beyond simple narrative – the poets have skillfully left something for the reader to figure out, & this is the most important component of haiku to me.

The range of subject matter & emotional tone in the selected poems speaks to the variety & strength of the contest entries in general...

I love the gap created by those "little rat feet"; the juxtaposition of the things we can control (pebble in boot) & the things we can't control (the weather); the poignancy of the scent in that "unfinished scarf"; the multiple meanings of the cat & the string; the fisher casting for clouds; a landscape arbitrarily carved into pieces in a game of politics; how alliteration & word choice can echo the poem's meaning; & the song in our hearts, in that mountain stream... So much could be said about each of these poems!

It has been an honour & a pleasure to judge this year's contest – many thanks to Haiku Canada & Contest Coordinator Carole MacRury for the opportunity, & congratulations to all the poets who submitted their work.

OUR JUDGE FOR 2020: kjmunro

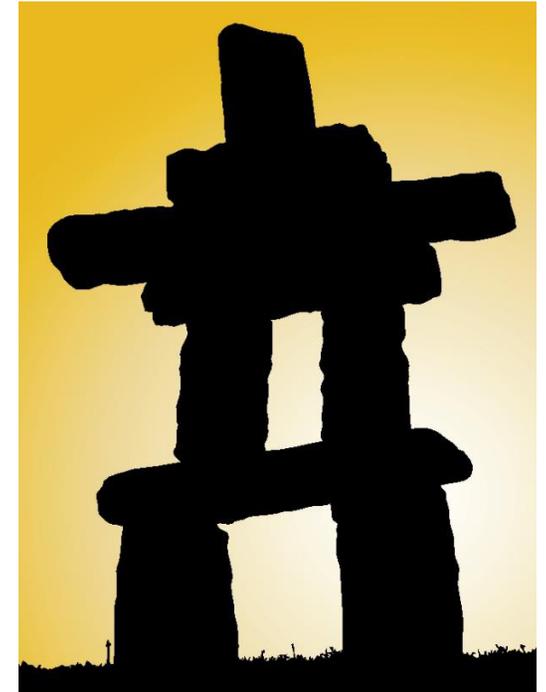
Originally from Vancouver, kjmunro moved to the Yukon Territory in 1991. She is Membership Secretary for Haiku Canada, & founded & facilitates 'solstice haiku', a monthly haiku discussion group in Whitehorse. Her debut poetry collection is *contractions* (Red Moon Press, 2019).

The Betty Drevniok Awards:

Held annually, the award was established by Haiku Canada in memory of Betty Drevniok, past President of the society.

Submission Guidelines: Haiku Canada Website:

<https://haikucanada.org/>



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THE BETTY DREVNIOK

AWARD

2020

FIRST PRIZE
\$100

a stop sign
in Inuktitut –
the wind unyielding

Pamela Cooper
Montreal, QC

SECOND PRIZE
\$50

first snowdrops –
my favourite songs
on repeat

Ana Drobot
Bucharest, Romania

THIRD PRIZE
\$25

moonlit
our cell phones charging
side by side

Barry George
Philadelphia, PA

HONOURABLE MENTIONS
(in no particular order)

backyard barbecue
a curl of watermelon
with little rat feet

Sheila K. Barksdale
Gotherington, U.K.

cloud-streaked sky
a pebble in my
hiking boot

Lynne Jambor
Vancouver, BC

spring cleaning
finding her scent
in the unfinished scarf

Mark Miller
Shoalhaven Heads, Australia

string hammock cat's cradle

Maxianne Berger
Outremont, QC

river bend –
someone in waders
taming clouds

Scott Mason
Chappaqua, NY

barbed wire fence
the jigsaw puzzle
of my homeland

Hifsa Ashraf
Rawalpindi, Pakistan

spring cleaning
the echo lingers longer
in the vacant room

(Mr.) Ngo Binh Anh Khoa
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

all the songs
we know by heart
mountain stream

Brad Bennett
Arlington, MA