

#FemkuMag

An e-zine of Women's Haiku



Issue One

Editors Note

Welcome to the very first issue of #FemkuMag! This project has been on my mind for some time now and I'm thrilled to be sharing my passion with all of you! I would like to sincerely thank each and every lady who shared their work with me, each man and woman who helped promote this project, and my beautiful fiance Chase Gagnon, who encouraged me to get the ball rolling! I really hope you enjoy this unique collection of work and are inspired by the different walks of life each woman presents in this e-zine. Be sure to check out the tribute to Marlene Mountain and announcement page at the very end! I look forward to seeing all of you again next month!

– Lori A Minor, editor

www.femkumag.wixsite.com/femkumag

no makeup
to cover these scars
naked lilies

– *Tia Haynes*

cold moon
I too
am barren

– *Rachel Sutcliffe*

personal boundaries
 hestandstoo close

– *Robin Smith*

soldier's house
days on the calendar crossed
with crayons

– *Vandana Parashar*

silver birch
the way she wears
her wounds

– *Lucy Whitehead*

morning cartoons
I shake out
the last pill

– *Tia Haynes*

childless
I hug a teddy bear
into the void

– *Rachel Sutcliffe*

depression...
my male shrink tells me
I need more sex

– *Robin Smith*

nine month's wait. . .
I wrap my hands around
the first mango

– *Vandana Parashar*

ship in a bottle
the uncharted waters
of her life

– *Lucy Whitehead*

ripped daffodils
every time I couldn't
say no

– *Tiffany Shaw-Diaz*

queen anne's lace
how she dressed me
as an angel

– *Kath Abela Wilson*

Please stop pretending;
My heart's been poisoned with lies
and beaten with chains.

– *Irish D. Torres*

bare red lotus ~
your power feeds
my famished heart

– *Pat Geyer*

osteoporosis –
reward for return
of lost bone mass

– *Valentina Ranałdi-Adams*

rising sun
I look in the mirror
and say I love you

– *Tiffany Shaw-Diaz*

wild rose
I want to grow up
just like my daughter

– *Kath Abela Wilson*

fresh flowers
on the mountain trail
child's footprints

– *Pratibha Kelapure*

reflections
the faint light
glimmers in her tears

– *Christina Chin*

anniversary roses
once more . . .
your grave

– *Valentina Ranałdi-Adams*

red pansy -
colouring my outline
crimson

- *Cathryn Daley*

pay equity
she swims against
the current

- *Debbie Strange*

your door left open
to unconditional love
why do you still knock

- *Paula Lietz*

Numbers are too high
Panic with each shot
Change is in the air

- *Charlotte Riewestahl*

hundred yen store
polka dotted chopsticks
themselves seem happy

- *Miriam Sagan*

dancing alone -
the last leaf
tumbles from the tree

- *Cathryn Daley*

missing
women
the
places
they
fill
in
our
hearts

- *Debbie Strange*

fallen leaves
preserved in herbarium...
family album

*foglie cadute
raccolte in un erbario ...
album di famiglia*

- *Lucia Cardillo*

old wounds
I cut the bruises
out of windfalls

– *Martha Magenta*

date hookup
a French businessman
with his man's purse

– *Anna Cates*

peeling apples
her life is spiralling
out of control

– *Hazel Hall*

porcelain doll
the hairline crack
in my memories

– *Eva Limbach*

postpartum
a hole in the light
the shape of me

– *Julie Warther*

crowded platform
in each sip of tea
taste of loneliness

– *Sudebi Singha*

church pot luck
a hooker forks up
a wiener

– *Anna Cates*

cleaning up
she empties his memory
from the case

– *Hazel Hall*

no-parking-zone
a little flirt
with the tow truck driver

– *Eva Limbach*

not fitting in between clouds blue poppies

– *Julie Warther*

the icing
on the cake –
she's pregnant

– *Susan Burch*

birthday surprise
blowing out
that he beat her

– *Elizabeth Crocket*

how slowly
the rain falls. . .
loose tampon

– *Lori A Minor*

getting rid of
all evidence of him –
douche

– *Susan Burch*

sipping
away the anger
that iced tea

– *Deborah P Kolodji*

white crayon
in all this blue
I have no color

– *Lori A Minor*

A Tribute to Marlene Mountain

December 11, 1939 – March 15, 2018

When I first started studying and writing haiku, I'd ask people for suggestions of poets I should read and one name came up more often than others: Marlene Mountain. As a radical feminist, Marlene began writing in the 1960's and published her first book, *old tin roof*, in 1976. Her work is without a doubt unique and her distinct voice radiates in all of her work. She has inspired so many and I have found myself longing to be more like her every time I read through her collection of work. Marlene's work has influenced me as a poet, a feminist, and a woman. Although we lost a beautiful and talented woman earlier this year, her soul lives on through her courageous, raw work. I leave you now with a few poems written by the infamous poet herself.

pig and i spring rain

spring in america water unsafe food unsafe sex unsafe

fearing her and all women he rapes her and all women

radical--at the root, rootical--feminist but not always that sharp

my body no longer firm mountain haze

Usually to read more by Marlene Mountain, you could visit: www.marlenemountain.org. Unfortunately at this time, the website is down, but with help from some lovely people, we're working on getting her site up and running again!

Announcements

Introducing the Marlene Mountain Memorial Haiku Contest! This contest will be open from July 5-15 and is for women, including non-binary and transwomen. The guidelines will be posted below as well as on the #FemkuMag website.

Guidelines

Please submit only two poems per poet to mountaincontest@gmail.com between July 5th and July 15th. Please put CONTEST in the subject line.

Poems must be unpublished, without any posting on social media. This is to provide total blind judging.

There will be first place, second place, and third place winners, who will be notified by the 18th and will appear in the July issue of #FemkuMag.

Prizes:

1st place: a copy of moment/moments by Marlene Mountain (published as Marlene Wills) and an e-certificate

2nd place: e-certificate

3rd place: e-certificate

The Marlene Mountain Memorial Haiku Contest will be judged blindly by Lori A Minor.