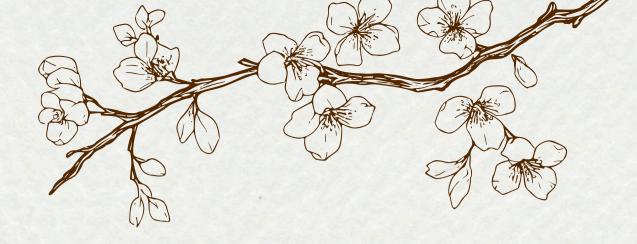


# The 2025 SAKURA Haiku Challenge Anthology



#### Foreword

We are delighted to present the 2025 collection of haiku submitted as part of the fourth annual SAKURA Haiku Challenge. Between March 17 and May 15, 2025, we received an impressive total of 357 haiku from across Canada and around the world. Each of the thoughtful and imaginative haiku reflect the diversity of cultures and perspectives, united under the theme of sakura. We have included entries with individual artwork as submitted. We hope you enjoy this iteration of the SAKURA Haiku Challenge!





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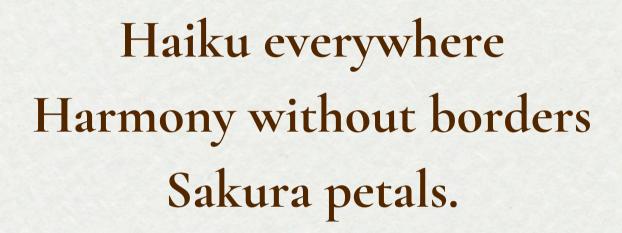
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# Haiku from Canada



Danielle Hrapoonov, Ontario

#### Toronto, Tokyo Joined together in friendship Pink Sakura Blooms

Vic Moschitto, Ontario



Shiba welcomes Spring Beaver waits for Sakura One gift blossom twice

Victoria Chen, Ontario

Peaceful susurrus Feeling the warmth of the sun Life is good today

> Petals are falling Sakura season is here Happiness is back

Clark Bumstead, Ontario

Blue Sky and sunshine Robins hopping in the grass Flowers bloom within

A soft breeze blowing The rustle of tall grasses Whispers to the soul

Laura Andrews, Ontario

9

#### Through the frozen earth Garden flowers start to grow A warm welcome back

danbann, Ontario

#### Blue eyes like the sky Hair the colour of sunshine Warm smile, a Spring kiss

L.D., Ontario



#### Sakura glory Blown high in night sky to meet Tsuru thousand years

Lillian Yano Blakey, Ontario



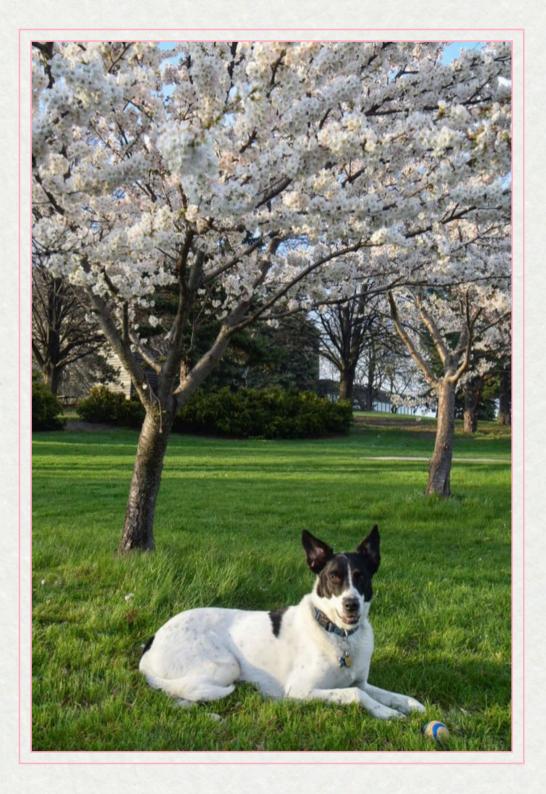
Sakura blossoms Diamonds in the velvet night Scattered future stars

Lillian Yano Blakey, Ontario



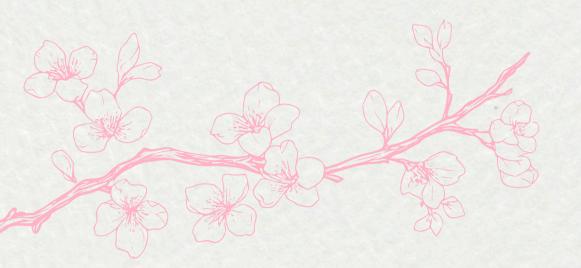
## Lace across the blue Rippling the mirrored surface A dancing petal

Y. McClenaghan, Ontario



The dog lies in wait. The tree casts off a bloom; She pounces on it.

Julie Stoyka, Ontario



#### Pink skies dream above Happiness swirling around Sakura blossoms.

Danielle Hrapoonov, Ontario

Early Sun rising birds chirping. Breeze blowing buds are ready to bloom. Cherry Blossom season is underway.

Winter out spring is in. Raindrops touch new Sakura leaves buds smile. With human flora fauna rejoice.

Seeta Gharti, Ontario



#### Sitting under the trees Sakura petals float by, I feel so peaceful.

Lily Germain, Ontario



#### spring cherry blossoms land gracefully on canvas when I paint at night

Anna Nike Leskowsky, Ontario



dancing with the moon ladies in pink, men in white blossoming with charm

Anna Nike Leskowsky, Ontario

blossom wind the echo of her farewell

North Shore mountains through the shelter window a drift of blossoms

Chen-ou Liu, Ontario

Petals sway; say, "Hey!" When mankind's hearts are set right, wee grass scent the air.

Muscles ease; souls calm. Fresh — pure — flavours, come. Sakura: I am.

Carmela Co, Ontario

Evanescent blooms the soft shade of Sakura precious banami



Once forever frozen, Branches slowly come to life, Cherry buds bloom.

Counting down the days, Quietly waiting for you, Dreams made of pink blooms.

Nayeema Reza, Ontario



## whirlwinds of little petals, soft pink cascading the ground, trampled-upon precious mounds

Sara Catherine Nayir, Ontario

brown stubs, rosy buds one transforms to the other fluttering pink flood

Veronika Zabel Nayir, Ontario

Sakura petals raining dreams on open hearts new hopes start to bloom.

Cherry blossoms burst like confetti in the breeze spring arrives in pink.

Hasina Knox, Ontario

#### Juicy pink blossoms Beautiful rebirth of spring Inhale renewal

Tanya Meyers, Ontario



After buds appear, Sakura blossoms burst forth, Sweet scents fill the air.

Deborah Ishii, Ontario

#### fairy sakuras, twirl in cherry petal boats confetti of pink

quiet park at noon sakura fell on soft cheeks a pink lullaby

Elisha, Ontario

#### Awaken in me Small florets of love that bloom at the sight of you

Samantha Fitzpatrick, Ontario

Early morning wind Petals ebb, flow in the air Sakura in flight

Springtime Sakura Bountiful blossoms of pink Open to the sun

Athena Yaoutsis, Ontario



#### The cherry tree blooms Knowing its breath of splendor Is worth forbearance

Sarah Hinnecke, Ontario

#### Sakura, your clouds Of white and pink breathe new life, And then disappear!

Jewels of pink and white Beckon us to shed winter And begin anew.

Diane Poloczek, Ontario

My first and "last" spring There, I was unaware. Yes, I still miss my dad.

But the cakes, teas, and Soft pink petals always help. Japan, you helped, too.

Sifton Tracey Anipare, Ontario



## My favourite colour Flits through the air, lands in my Hair. The best feeling.

Sifton Tracey Anipare, Ontario

36

pink fairies take flight, petals scatter like soft snowsparkles fill the air

C.M. Frances

gentle rays on buds waken cherry blooms from sleep tiny flowers peek

C.M. Frances

I await, patient For the opening of buds Crowds answer the call

Budding pink flower Hatchling turtles break the earth Together, spring

Rein Losier, Ontario

our taxi window frames the sakura – one final shot

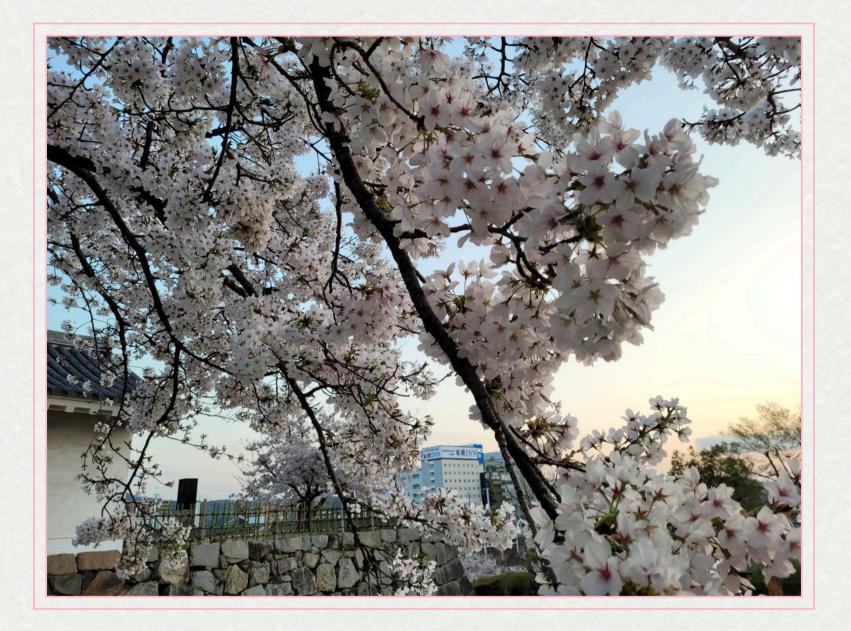
# late to the party northern cherry blossoms open at last

Jessica Allyson, Ontario

under sakura humankind gathers in throngs drawn by nature's gift

silver grey branches reaching pink sakura cloud humankind strolls by

Erica, Ontario



On the castle grounds Each year, the sakura bloom Ancient scenery

Kaitlyn D'Eathe, Ontario

recharging ourselves for the month ahead – cherry blossoms

zen garden: cherry blossom petals on a stone bridge

Morag Elizabeth Humble, Ontario



# You said "Sakura" I replied "Cherry Blossoms" Let's go Hanami

Sew Ming Tian, Ontario



Lying on the ground Submerged in the beauty of Blooming Sakura

Sew Ming Tian, Ontario

skies embrace pink blooms buds of hope light a dark world easing hearts with love

Honey Novick, Ontario

twilight sky the sakura adds a hint of blush

one last dance the sakura blossoms wave goodbye

Jahnavi Gogoi, Ontario



Clouds of pink petals Heralds an invincible Shimmering springtime.

M.I., Ontario



Fluttering petals Raining down on picknickers Laughter rides the wind.

M.I., Ontario

#### so many tones children dressed up beneath cherry blossoms

crimson husks of cherry blossoms above the confetti

Marshall Hryciuk, Ontario

seventeen blossoms blowing in a western wind of no origin

# on Grenadier hill blossoms fall on my notebook I can stop writing

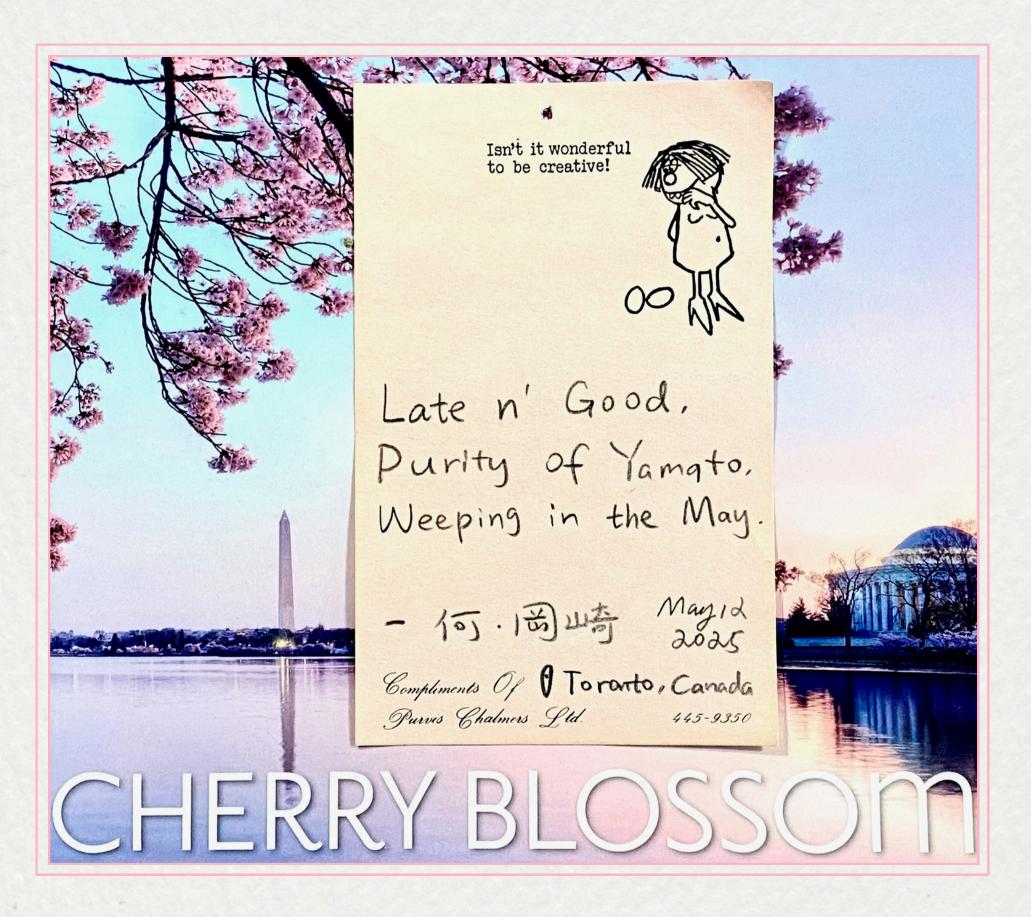
Nicholas Power, Ontario

51

Philosopher's walk Statues do not blink. Hanafubuki wraps them in brief tenderness.

Broadview Avenue Haruzora tilts above brutalist towers petals soften stone.

Harshal Desai, Ontario



Charlie He-Okazaki, Ontario

#### Twirling pink petals weave enchanting springtime dances enthralling soiree

hopeful buds of bloom awaken in ecstasy nocturne reflections

Celine Cheung, Ontario

Sakuras blooming heralds life's return to Spring yet my life withers

PH Wong, Ontario

Under the blue sky Delicate petals above Spring whispers softly

Sonya Davidson, Ontario

56



Some petals remain on the young Sakura trees Three goslings resist Waving the petals remain on the Cherry trees Waves the goslings leave

Alejandra Gutierrez, Ontario



Laura Leigh Moschitto, Ontario

cherry blossoms falling on the grass pause of a bird



cherry blossoms tulips and daffodils my shifting gaze

Sheila Bello, Ontario

#### Listen:

Footsteps to the park Morning birdsong greets petals What is the sound of bloom?

Emergence: Pink gems clothed in green Whisper promise of blossom Hope grows in my heart

Mai Vy N, Ontario

soft blooms, pearls of spring clusters in rows of branches come alive again

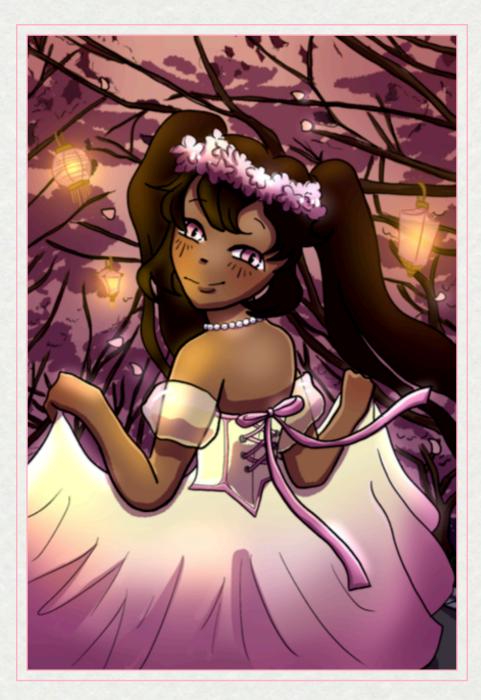
a full moon rising above sakuras, shining raindrops like soft dreams

Sneha Subramanian, Ontario



#### Silhouette

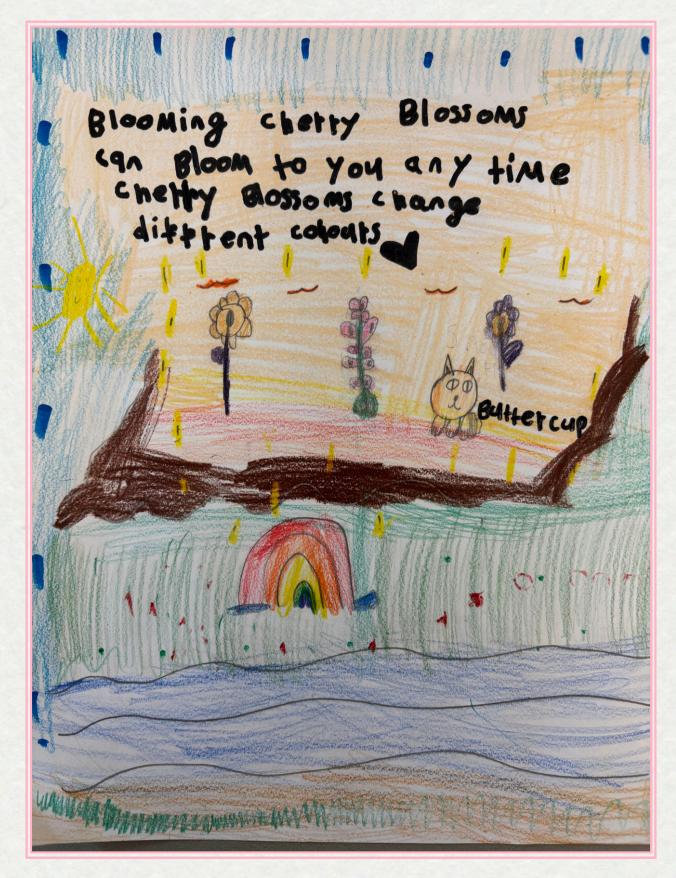
Silver skies, silver linings sakura silhouetted petals fall like rain *Elijah Costes, Ontario* 



Dream of a Girl In the night, a dream about a girl who isn't me dancing beneath the cherry trees *Elijah Costes, Ontario*  Cherry blossoms bloom Buddhist temples, sushi, trains Sing, drum, chant, play, love!

Kai Tetaka, Ontario

64



Melia Ramsundar-Lawrence, Ontario

The Blossoms Bloom? The petals fall? May is here we all cheer? 88 Bx1 Liza, and Hannaff

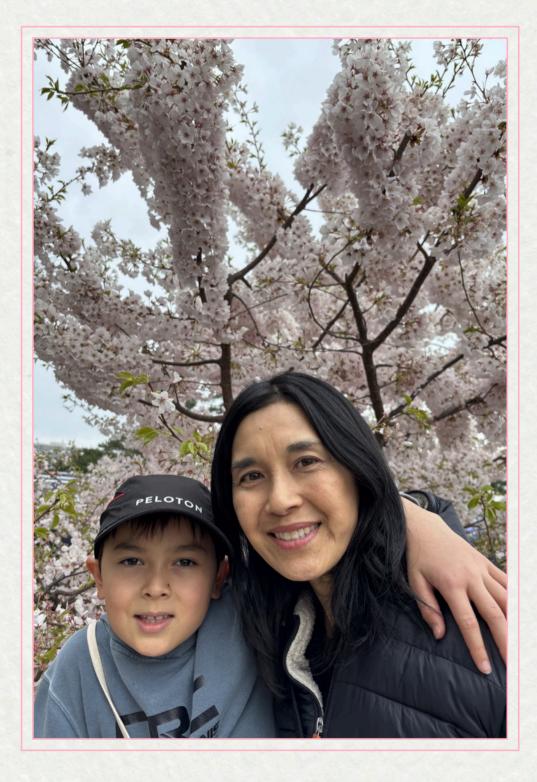
Liza Kachynska & H. T., Ontario

Stop stay and stare Sakura startle us all Into the present

Broken Sakura Hearts lifted when the child Cries fierce tears for you

April Giles, Ontario

67



Blossoms gently fall Whispers of spring in the breeze Sakura dreams fade.

Blossoms touch spring winds Sweet showers of pink and white Fall into silence.

Bo, Ontario

Sakura is pink Sakura rains pink flowers Sakura is cute

Sakura blooms now Sakura rains pink petals Sakura smells fresh

Morgan, Ontario



Cherry trees erupt Demeter cedes the meadow Pyroclastic blooms

Somnolent table Delicate porcelain cup Dreams in pink-lashed shade

Marianne Tefft, Ontario

70

A cherry blossom Waving in the cool spring air Petals floating down

Blooming Sakura Pink dots against the blue sky Floating confetti

Sagarika Ritvik, Ontario



#### <u>Friendship Flourishes</u> Under sakura, a beaver and green pheasant drink to their friendship

Michelle Chermaine Ramos, Ontario

## New beginnings bloom Promising love kissed blossoms Forever for two

Michelle Goodwin, Ontario

#### Sakura Haiku

I look at the sky, Blood spotted over my eyes, Still serene, enough.

#### Esah Mirza

Spring Dance Bronzing buds waiting For young love to swell and blush Shimmering white queen

## After The Peak A gentle blizzard Moonlit petals fall like snow The park lies quiet

Tamiko Potts, Ontario

Ruffles unfurl to reveal gradients of pink; infused with spirit.

By Karen Sekikawa

Carriage of the wind; Tapestry of confetti; to the fringe; Beyond?

By Karen Sekikawa



such fragile buds the wind threatens them all day they bloom out of spite Vanessa Huasasquiche, Ontario



stop touching the trees they need their gentle growing just leave them alone

Vanessa Huasasquiche, Ontario

green peas sprout push through pink carpet cherry blossoms

> daughter's gift salted blossom tea cherry tart

Mary L. Leopkey, British Columbia

baby's first birthday cherry blossom tea party for three

## entanglement of cherry trees breathe in the scent of home

Michele Rule, British Columbia

81

sweeter even than cherries their divine blossoms

youthful scientist awaiting chain reaction ponders cherry buds

Greg Skala, British Columbia

island potholes filled with pink cherry blossom petals

cherry blossom petals dance pink petals in her hair

Cheryl Ashley, British Columbia

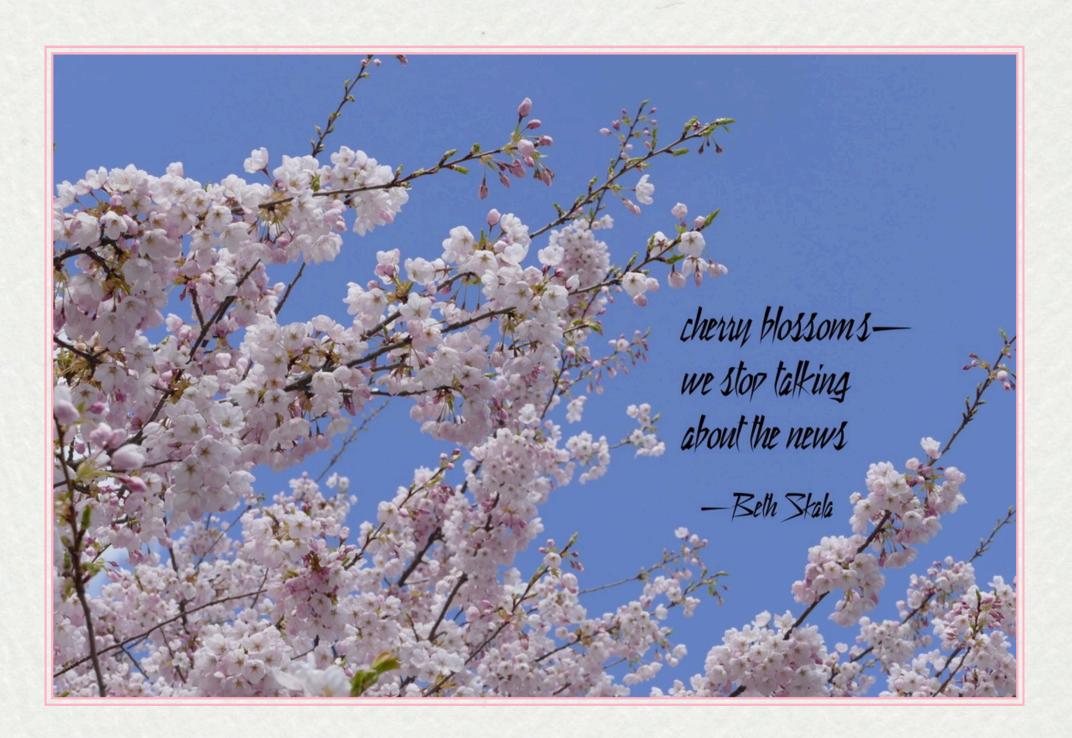
Pink cherry blossoms drift down, mesmerize I trip on sidewalk

as spring fades cherry blossoms fall bees shed a tear

Karl Kliparchuk, British Columbia



Beth Skala, British Columbia



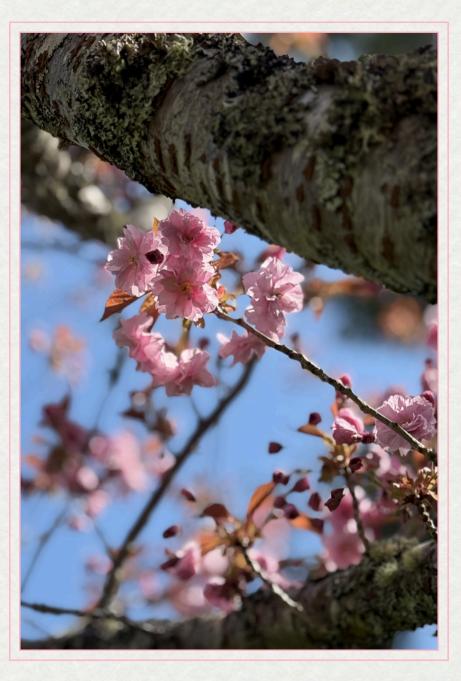
Beth Skala, British Columbia



morning commute my wipers on low ... cherry blossom rain

outdoor café the morning news sprinkled with cherry blossoms

elehna de sousa, British Columbia



Silken as girls' skin, Poised to part the stem and sink— Poor perfect petal.

Martin Phipps, British Columbia

So slow Opening buds Cool spring

Christopher Hanlon, Alberta



The sakura clock Beauty is the bloom of time And love is the fruit Delicate delight With the slightest disturbance A petal blizzard

Tanner Halbert, Alberta



Debbie Strange, Manitoba

## wild cherry blossoms sparse wild bees last snow the cherry blossoms reconsider

Louise Carson, Quebec

so firmly attached once to the branch... magnolia blossoms

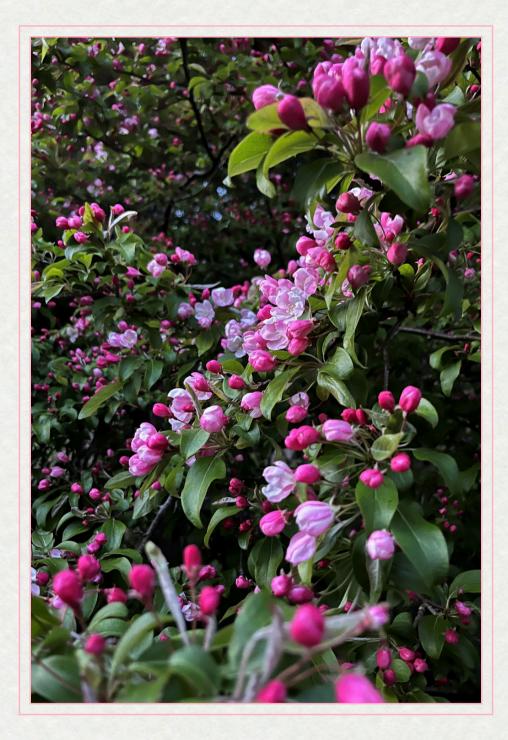
## swelling on a broken branch first blossoms

Elena Calvo, Quebec



Cherry blossoms open once magnolia trees weep. A season for each.

Lindsey Harrington, Nova Scotia



Sakura provides a snowfall, slow and warm. Blanket me in peace Lindsey Harrington, Nova Scotia



Sheila's brush late snow Superstition suggests And usher in spring

Jackie M., Newfoundland

journey's end cherry blossoms circling In the tide pool

downpour the cherry blossoms hanging on

Joanne Morcom, Canada

97

<u>Cold Morning</u> Petals flare from sepals like a pink-tinted exhale on a cold morning.

#### Orioles

Please leave the flowers for travelling orioles, with their yellow chests and pollen-powdered bills.

Emma Brijlall Nakahara, Canada

## The sun shines, snow melts People enjoy a picnic Under Sakura

Windy Mill, Canada

### The Blossom

Blush against blue skies Twirling in a gentle breeze Whispers of warm spring

#### The Tree

Listen. In hushed tones The ancient song of the tree Breathes lingering grace

Em, Canada

cherry blossoms shake sumo wrestlers practice their shiko

vagabond at rest cherry tree blossoms weave a pink blanket

Harvey Jenkins, Canada

Hold gently your heart Fleeting like this bloom, mistakes Pierce memory, fade.

There's no surrender To a love affair with spring Dance with pink-flecked breeze

Diana Koa, Canada





# Haiku from Japan



sakura street the schnauzer's eyelash catches a petal deserted hill spot the moon monopolizing cherry blossoms

Keiko Izawa, Japan



## cherry petals flowing the river faster than the children

carpet of sakura petals makes everyone's footprints look gentle

Shinsaku Ashida, Japan

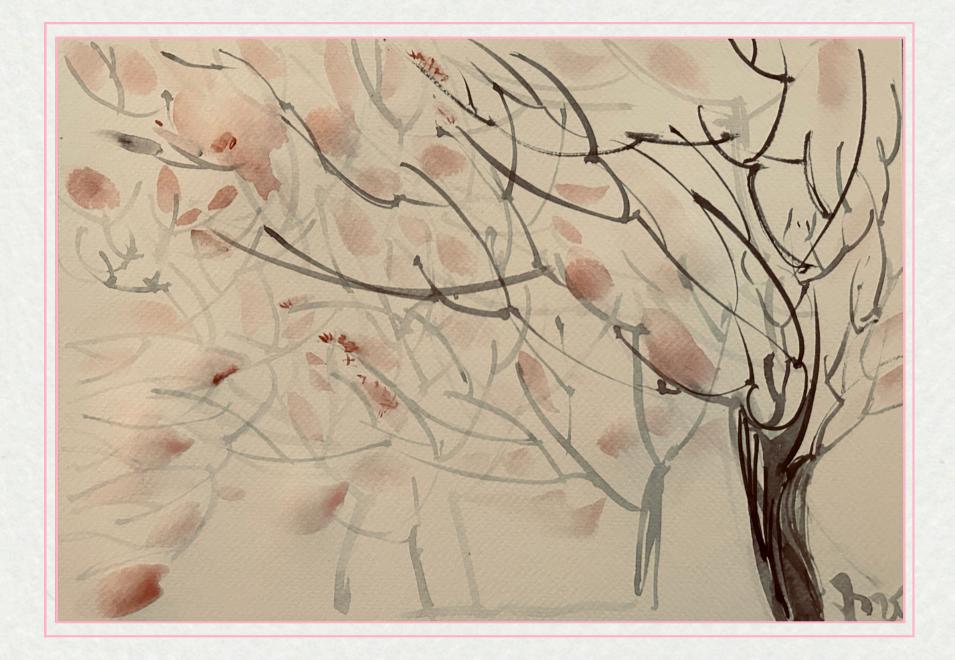


# Haiku from North America

city sunrise the path pink with fallen petals

coloring the air with the young girl's laugh petal rain

John Pappas, USA



spring seeps through the lace of dark branches sakura buds swell sakura buds burst opening to the fresh wind spring at last

VSh, USA

broken wing a pigeon stumbles into cherry blossoms

#### rushing waters beneath cherry blossoms lovers reunite

Erin Castaldi, USA

109

melodies in trees pink blossoms cover roads

Barbie vibes from the Kwanzan tree pretty in pink

Patricia Carragon, USA



#### polka-dotted grass leaps in fear, becomes bunny flashing cotton tail

Greg Beatty, USA





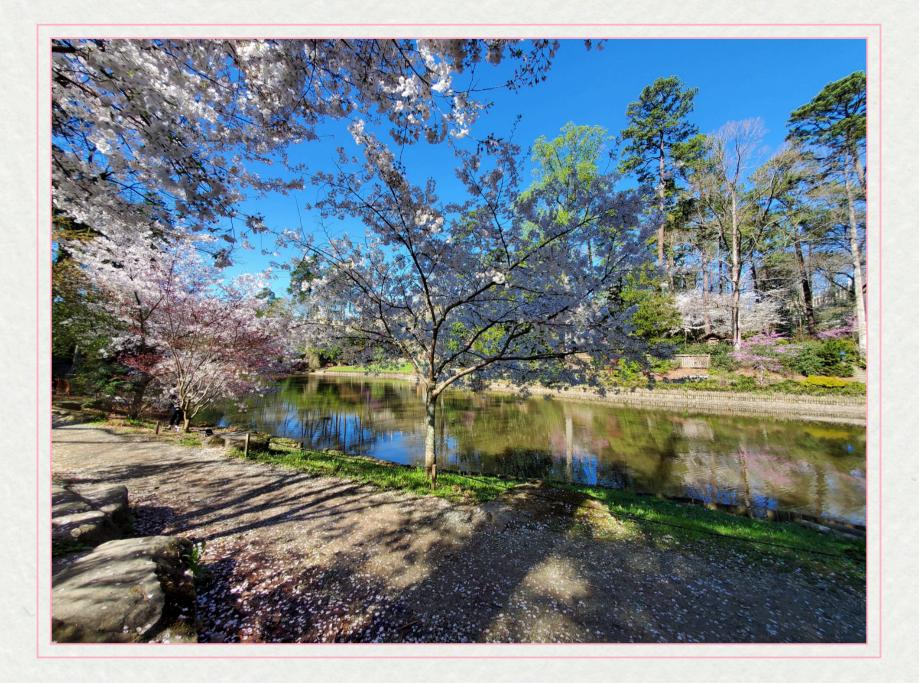
caught in a swirling rain of pink and white petals a row of cherry blossoms marks the high point of the tide

Jon Hare, USA

a man at the bus stop battling no-see-ums blooming Sakura

playing tag Sakura petals cling to the boy's sweater

Joseph P. Wechselberger, USA



beneath the sakura inhaling sweet spring exhaling winter

Jennifer Gurney, USA



spring perfection in each tiny bud unfolding sakura

Jennifer Gurney, USA

cherry blossoms fall like valorous samurai: life's fragile beauty

mystery of life: stardust woven in water. cherry blossoms drift

Hakim, USA

Pink blossoms fall snowflakes of spring

Pink blossoms rain down hope of sweetness and summer cherries

Lauren M. Connolly, USA

#### Jindai Zakura Jindai Zakura wise mother pink petals kiss wake Sakurako

#### <u>Miharu Takizakura</u> Takizakura pink cascades tumble sweet smiles moments glance times gone

Allan Anthony, USA



#### **SPRINGIRL**

I watch the spring breeze Streak pink against clear blue skies Feel love rain on me

<u>HANAHAKI</u>

Scatter these feelings Before I feel pink blossoms Drown me in spring love

Morgana Sol Faye, USA

cross stitch sky lake reflecting cherry blossoms

cardinals check the feeder falling sakura

Sam Calhoun, USA

#### brightening our collective thoughts cherry blossoms

soaring over pagoda kite

Roberta Beach Jacobson, USA





Childhood window view Unlikely Brooklyn backyard My sacred blossoms

Blossoms of cherry Entice photo memories Aroma up close

Sheri Knauth, USA

early spring a web of pink dew

Bonnie J Scherer, USA



cherry blossoms the view from the funeral home

cherry blossoms the fine wrinkles around her eyes

Gregory Tullock, USA

124

Slowly opening the scent of cherry blossoms in the morning sky

> Triptych three generations beneath the blossom

> > Laila Brahmbhatt, USA

falling as snow flakes fragrant buds gather in drifts like winter, in spring

between spent petals rippling water reflects stars tree and sky dancing

Piper Heisig, USA

cherry blossoms scatter with the wind —spring gala

> pink drifts of cherry blossoms —spring snow

> > Nancy Brady, USA



# blossoming in her party dress pink petals

**Bonnie J Scherer** 

nature fulfills a promise . . . cherry blossoms

#### springtime cherry blossoms crowd out the sky

Valentina Ranaldi-Adams, USA

boarding the ferry . . . cherry petals cling to my rain poncho

> tying our wish to a branch . . . cherry blossoms

> > Paula Sears, USA

#### midnight rain the scent of cherry blossoms lifting from the stone

calligraphers inking their final strokes falling sakura

Sandip Chauhan, USA

#### no one to write to on scented pink paper cherry blossoms

Jackie Chou, USA

### Sakura Puppy Love You Are

Small

You

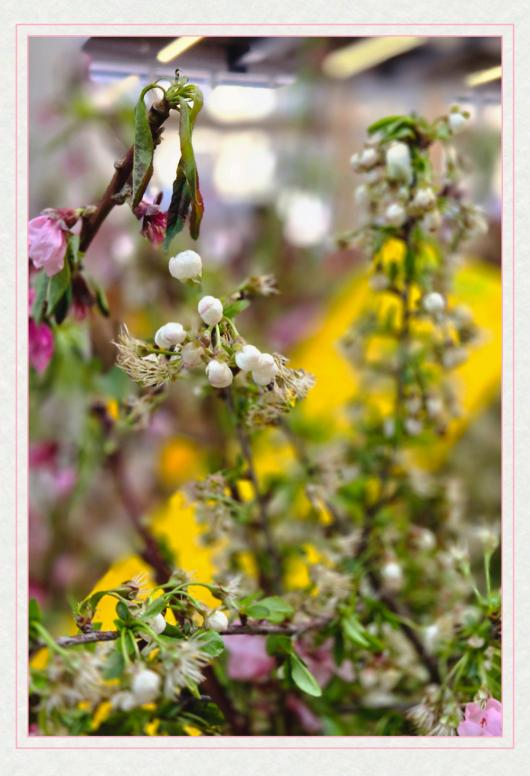
Are

Fast You will last Like the love to a puppy

Alexandra VM, Mexico

Sakura Cake It tastes like heaven It smells like heaven I think it's heaven

Alexandra VM, Mexico



Tkaronto Small bud in the midst of the cold Blooming memories from around the world *Cynthia Moreno Mendez, Mexico* 



## Haiku from Europe

turtles drift along wave by wave a cherry petal floats

Katherine E Winnick, United Kingdom

sheltering under cherry blossom boughs spring showers

not a care just blue skies and cherry blossom

Melissa Dennison, United Kingdom

touching my soul the everywhere bloom of Sakura petals

wonderland this drift of stars beneath cherry blossom

Joanna Ashwell, United Kingdom

139

cherry trees in the peace garden new friendships blossom

chasing the puppy from my flower beds... sakura laced collar

Tracy Davidson, United Kingdom

140

#### petal fall a line from his letter I still haven't read

#### blossom rain your scarf still hanging by the stairwell

C.X. Turner, United Kingdom

sakura falling for the girl with pink in her hair

a gentle breeze she blows a kiss to parting blossom

Tony Williams, Scotland

downwind a month of cherry blossom dispersing

swallows flirt on a cherry blossom day he takes her hand

Ria Collins, Ireland

concertina tune... a breeze blows some petals off the cherry blossom

*uilleann* pipe notes drifting cherry blossom petals

Maeve O'Sullivan, Ireland

144

the mountain is obscured by twenty cherry blossom trees in full bloom

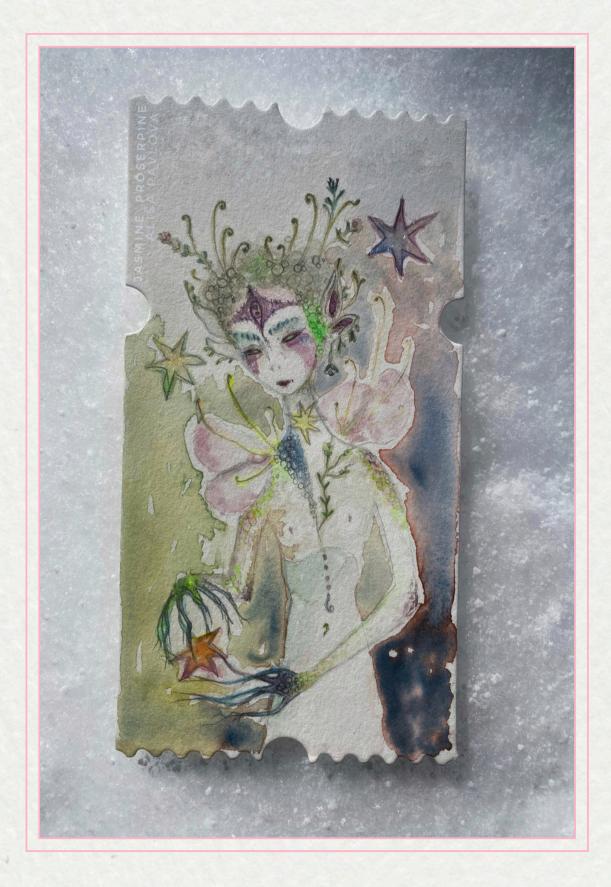
> the sharp wind scatters cherry blossoms over wilted daffodils

> > Johnny Moran, Ireland

Petals on water, Pink snow drifting with the wind — Blooming sakura.

> A little swallow sings. Cherry petals on the path Under moon's last glance.

> > Tea Fox, Russia



I am alive — After the longest winter Sakura blooms again.

Alisa Pavlova, Russia



Your touch is ethereal... In the endless rain of petals I stay near your grave. Alisa Pavlova, Russia Through an alley in pink I move along the blossoms— A leisurely stroll.

Struck by wind, a petal Puts up a futile struggle— A wonderful dance.

Eugene Lebedev, Russia

cherry blossoms fear of doing something like her first husband

> petals are falling still motionless Christ in the tomb

> Belyvus, Republic of Belarus

### kimono pattern on her white dress pink sakura

Małgorzata Formanowska, Poland

cherry petals fall a brand new pattern on her old dress

Sebastian Chrobak, Poland



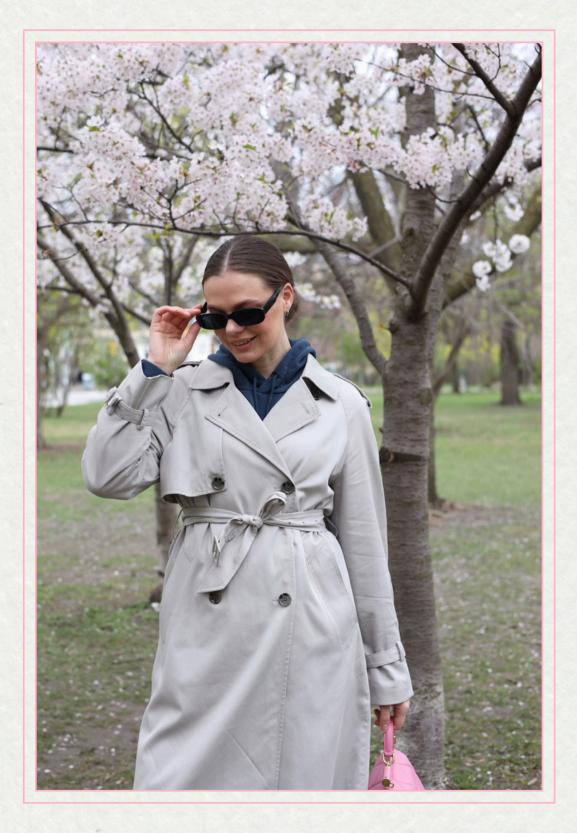
Shock wave Shaking the branches Of the blooming Sakura Ivan Igorovich Krendikov, Ukraine



The sakura blossoms each petal trembling something is not said

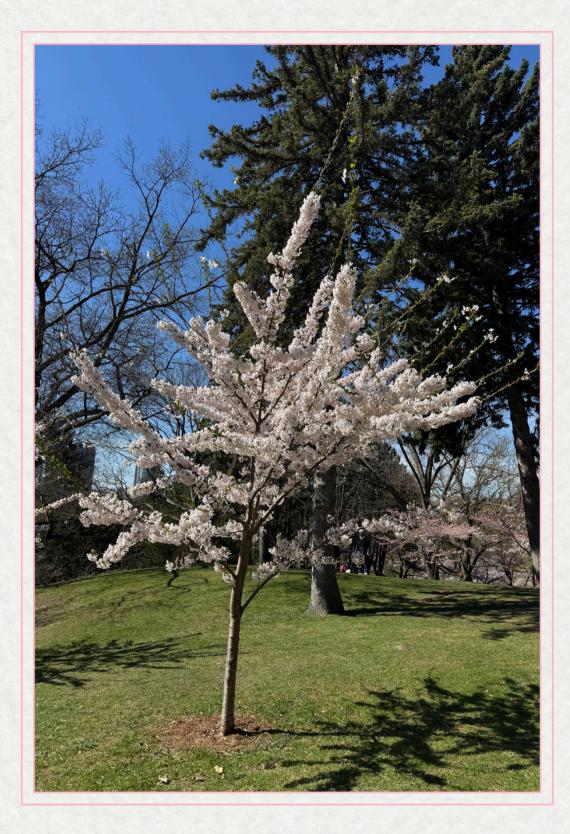
among the ruins still blooms as surely as ever tree of spring

Burdenko Mykhailo, Ukraine



Whispers in pink air a petal lands on my hand, spring bows in silence.

Alina Shcheblykina, Ukraine



Beneath cherry trees, memories bloom like petals gone, but never lost.

Alina Shcheblykina, Ukraine

already forgotten the cherry blossoms Mother just admired

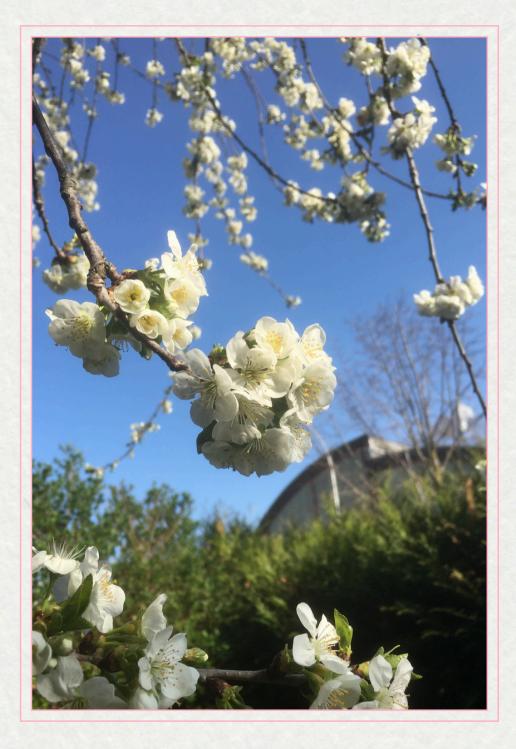
#### the newborn's first cry – cherry blossoms

Emil Karla, France

cherry blossoms – the little girl glued to grandpa's computer

tonight the parade of fussy hairstyles – cherry blossoms

Jean-Hughes Chevy, France



Short-lived flowers on the tough cherry tree real time resilience

Countless shades of pink in the fresh air of April lighting up the sky

Brignol Tuy-Nga, France

busy streets escapes to the 3rd floor sakura perfume



sakura petals on the river my heart alone

Elena Zouain, France

gust of wind – under the cherry blossoms a white puddle

April moon the cherry blossom chirps with the Mistral

Francoise Maurice, France

161

### cherry blossoms for a moment I'd like to be a bumblebee

# little wind an old cherry tree blesses a newly-wed couple

Pascal Pozzo di Borgo, France

The smell of rain in March... The old park keeps dreaming Of what has never happened...

March clouds above! Of becoming a Sakura tree Every sand grain dreams...

Alexei Gartinski, Switzerland

cherry petals the haphazard flow of ideas

cherry blossoms hopes for the future regrets for the past

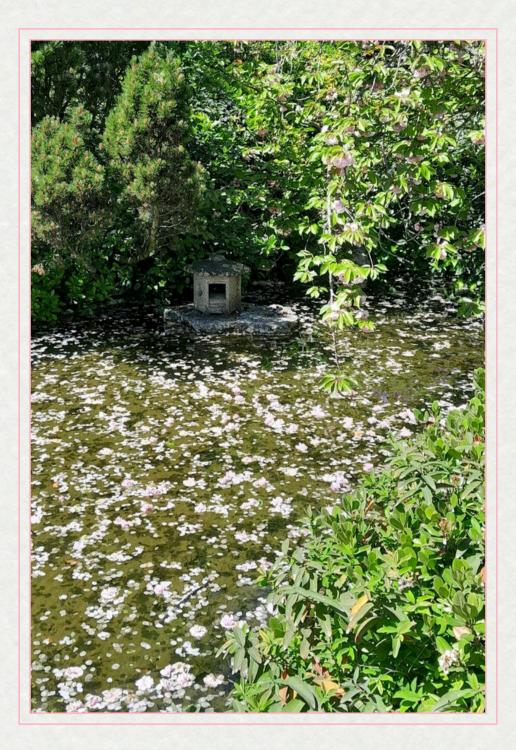
Barbara Anna Gaiardoni, Italy

164



cherry blossoms a passing shadow on her face

Daniela Misso, Italy



### tadpoles water flows with cherry blossoms Daniela Misso, Italy

sakura petals... pink snow in the wind falling memory

waning moon... among sakura branches the echo of farewell

Antonella Seidita, Italy

breeze – cherry petals whiten breakfast on the grass

## at dawn my dream continues – cherry blossoms

Nazarena Rampini, Italy

cherry blossom – a love as long as a glance

### cherry blossoms – sudden wind sweeps fragile beauty

Andrea De Pasquale, Italy

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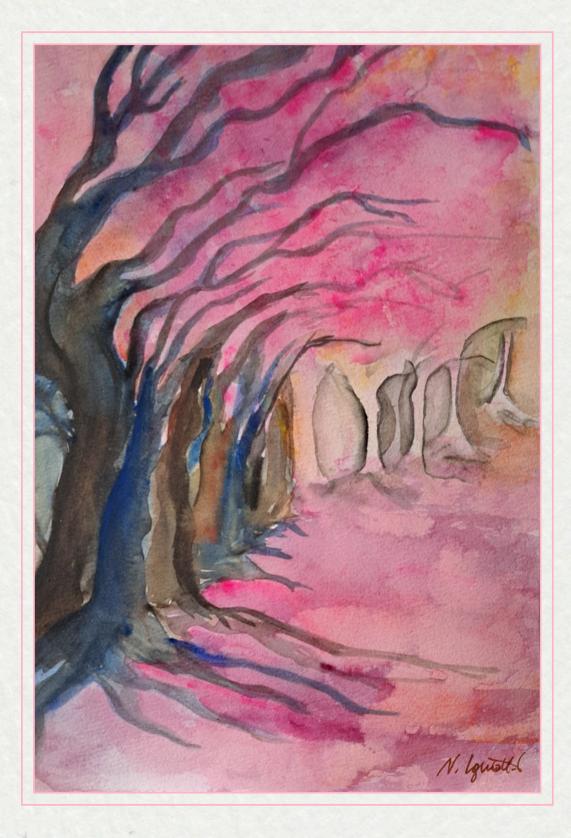
cherry buds... my child blows soap bubbles

Carmela Marino, Italy



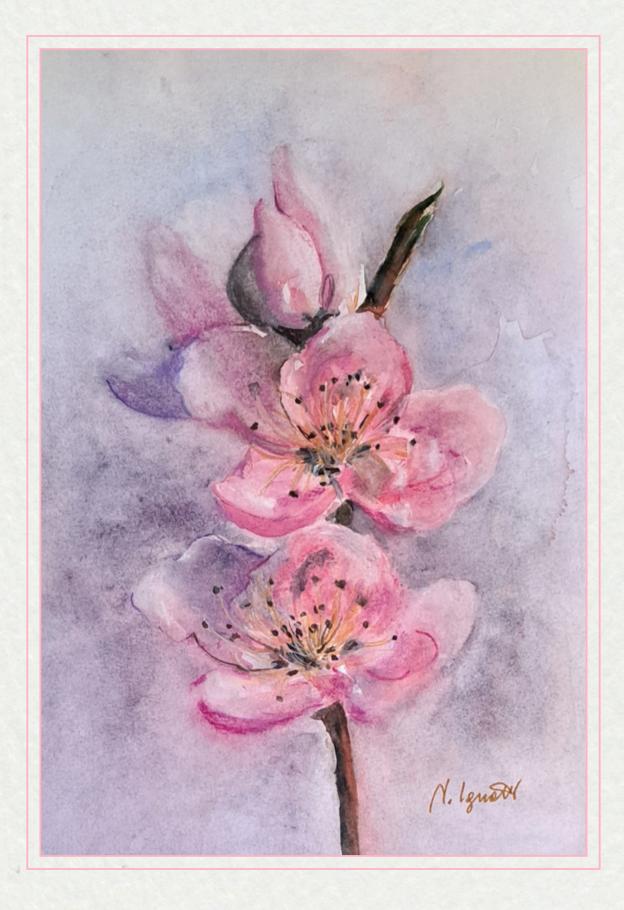
souvenir photo... blossoms turn away from the rearview mirror

Carmela Marino, Italy



walking in the park – i breathe the silence of cherry blossoms

Nicoletta Ignatti, Italy



looking for a caress before leaving – cherry blossoms

Nicoletta Ignatti, Italy



white petals – reflection in the river a new cherry tree cherry blossoms – they fall dancing little by little

Giuliana Ravaglia, Italy



## pink cherry blossoms painted on her baby bump just a new springtime

Maria Tosti, Italy

175



bloom cam in the park virtual walk in live stream mid cherry blossoms Maria Tosti, Italy petals in the wind the silence before our farewell

wind blows scent of cherry petals in every room

Eufemia Griffo, Italy



Bita, Croatia

cherry blossoms – rosy scenes in the botanical garden

Bita, Croatia

love touch cherry petals -wind dance

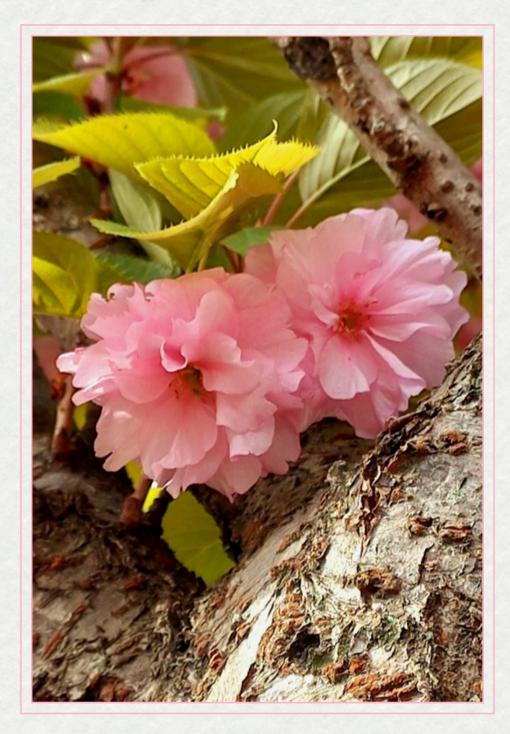
sunny day cherries in full bloom –I catch the scent

Glori, Croatia

borrowed a book... among leafs cherry's blossom

spring fatigue disappearing – sakura

Mihovila Čeperić-Biljan, Croatia



sunny morning the breeze cuddling sakura blossom

Vana Bogičević, Croatia

cherry's blossom brightens this morning and my thoughts

Kamilo Correa Peranić, Croatia

my granny's garden growing a new cape – blossoming cherry-tree

Rita Blažić, Croatia

in silence budding slowly the beauty

Saša Frančišković, Croatia

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#### morning pink petals covering closing my window

my hand touched by silk – a cherry petal

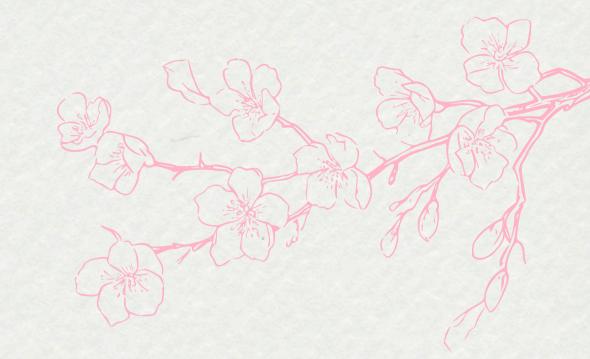
Karla Majer, Croatia



### a pink magic opens the buds to the sun

Viktor Majer, Croatia

187



### a gust of wind – cherry's petals sailing across the sky

Val Kovačić, Croatia

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### cherry's canopy sprinkling the garden with pink confetti

Linda Dušević, Croatia

### dusk . . . blackbird picking cherry-tree to

Romeo Vulić, Croatia

sakura's petals on my palm the scent of morning

Lana Čerina, Croatia

budding time... under a wild cherry tree the logger hesitates

### sundown the old lady still eyeing a cherry in bloom

Nina Kovačić, Croatia

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pink Milky Way... two ducks make their way through sakura petals

kanzan tree in bloom from time to time moon restlessness

Steliana Cristina Voicu, Romania



sakura petals caressing the toddler's head war orphan sweeping sakura mother and daughter enjoy the fleeting beauty

Lavana Kray, Romania

the Milky Way the cherry blossom's petals decorate the street

cherry blossoms the mother combing the hair on her temples

Frățilă Genovel-Florentin, Romania

cherry blossom every day – calendar from Japan

Capotă Daniela Lăcrămioara, Romania

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cherries in bloom – grandma's at cemetery smiles again

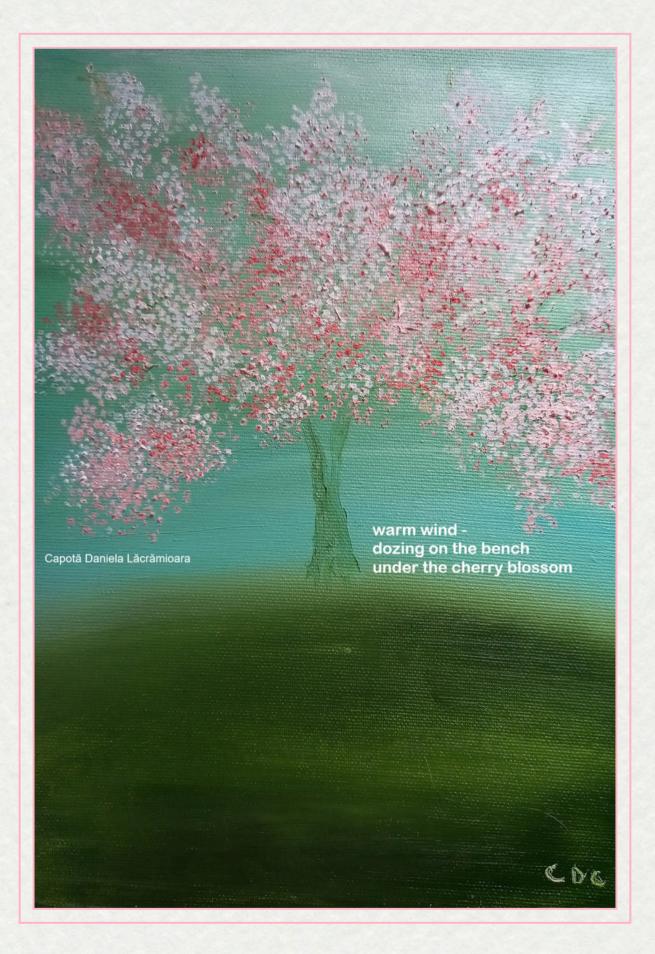
> power outage few cherry petals light the lanterns

Mihai Moldoveanu Mirco, Romania

cherry blossoms my mother reads me a poem

peace treaty on the water wave floating cherry blossoms

Mirela Duma, Romania



Capotă Daniela Lăcrămioara, Romania

spring galaxy, children's laughter under the old sakura

Botticelli painting: sakura petals in a girl's hair

Lilia Racheva Dencheva, Bulgaria

blooming sakura the bored face of the sweeper

cherry blossoms the healing power of your voice

Boryana Boteva, Bulgaria





## Haiku from The Middle East



I admire the sakura. The blue porcelain of the sky, the blush of the petals... I think about cherry pie.

Vera Menshikova, Israel



Vera Menshikova, Israel

sakura galaxy– a universe of bees pollinating

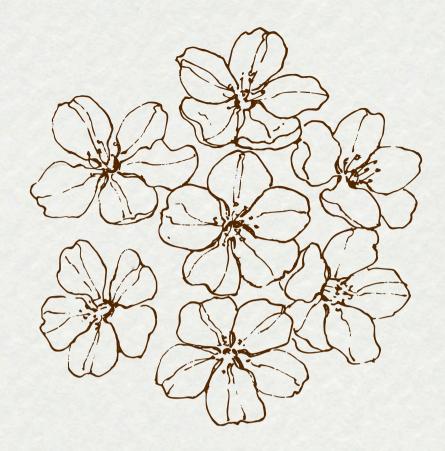
magical grove starlight on sakura queen's crown

Sheikha A., Pakistan & United Arab Emirates

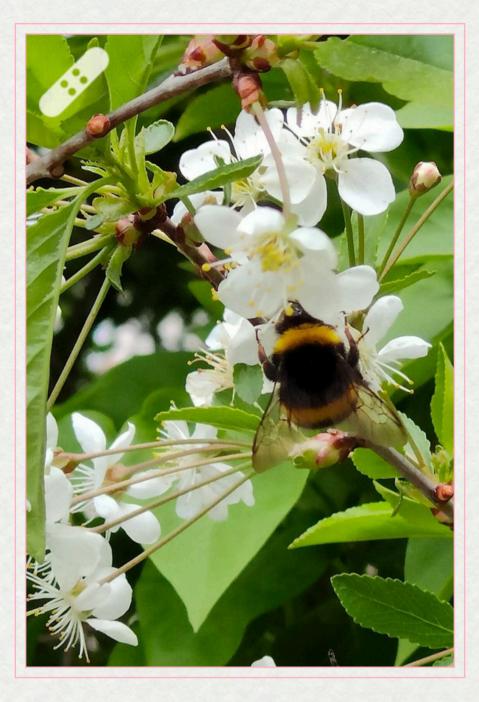
slowing
 by cherry blossoms
 small wheelchair

– sakura
a migrant's breath
fogs the embassy glass

Nitu Yumnam, United Arab Emirates



## Haiku from Central Asia



cherry blossoms in bloom an old cat sits for a long time on the garden path

Nataliya Yerkhova, Kazakhstan



this little cherry blossoms in bloom is a short night

Nataliya Yerkhova, Kazakhstan

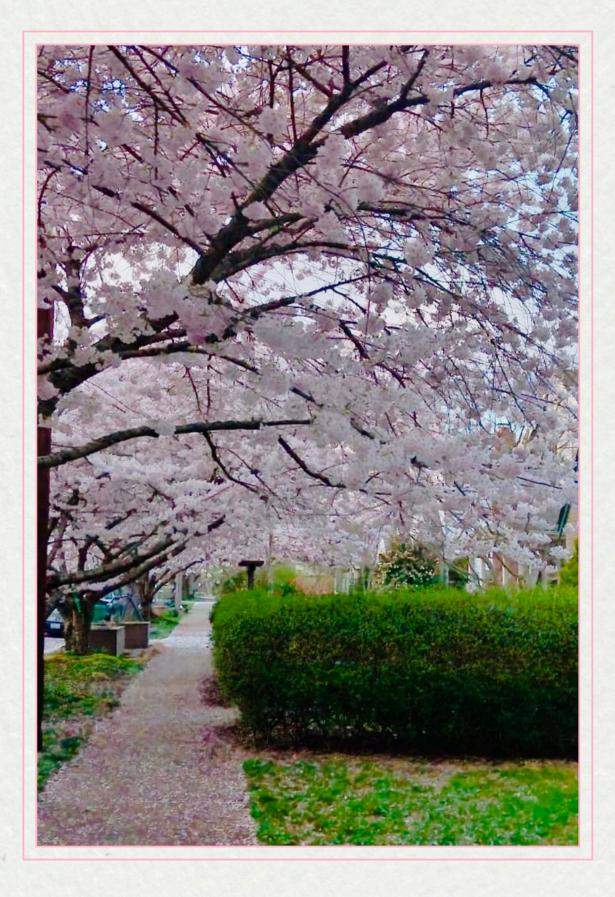


# Haiku from South Asia

chock-a-block pink – cherry blossoms in bloom

> gazing up at the sky sakura scent

Rupa Anand, India



sakura breeze the old man hums a new love song

cherry blossoms... longing for home the migrant child

Neena Singh, India

#### dry palette how fresh the pink of sakura

a weeping cherry this spring without you

Arvinder Kaur, India

unfolding your letter pink petals fall

### first date sending her cherry blossoms in my text

Ranvir Singh, India

sakura a girl dancing in the pink shower

sakura a pair of lovebirds lost in pink thought

Bipasha Majumder (De), India

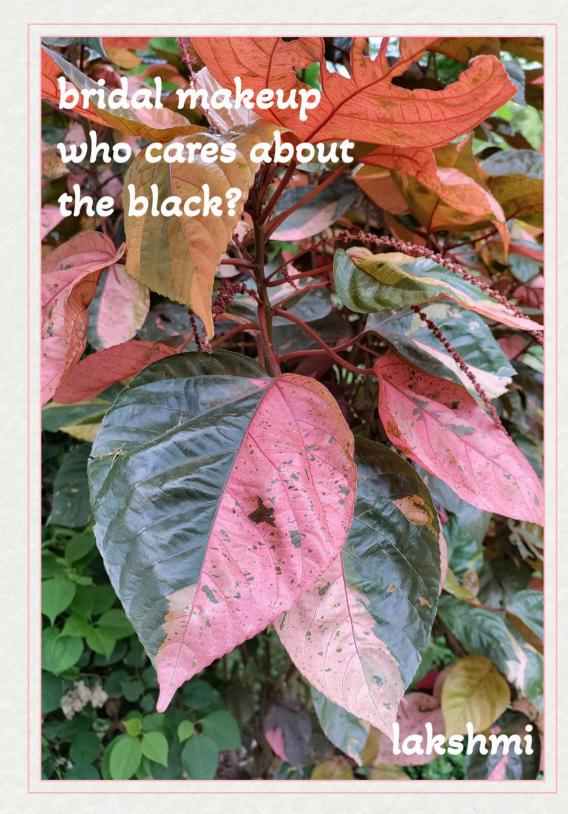
lilting on lips in sync with sunup . . . sakura sakura

promenade pinkens . . . ashimmer in angel hair cherry blossom shrimp

Monica Kakkar, India

Sakura blooms mother reassures no regrets -cherry blossoms! the pink scent amidst the cotton clouds

Lakshmi Iyer, India



#### cherry blossoms pop pink cheeks in innocence smile below summer scorch

a suzume drinks the dripping petal dewdrops down sakura blooms

Allen David Simon, India

herbarium– cherry petals find a safe haven

spring collection dangling on her drop earrings cherry blossoms

Jagajit Salam, India

falling with the cherry petals a feather

I get off the bicycle cherry blossoms

Ravi Kiran, India



life beyond cancer the mother sakura full of blossoms

open garage sakura petals on a vintage car

R. Suresh Babu, India

Cherry blossoms bloom the soft breeze carries their scent, whispers of spring's grace.

Aksa Shah, Kashmir

moonlit sakura blossoms letting go of my thoughts to get inner peace

blossom wind two teenage girls whirl around the sakura tree

Hifsa Ashraf, Pakistan

### pink sky through the cherry blossom ink brings heavenly breath

cherry blossoms invite to feel the real flowers in this weary world

Swarna Bopali de Zoysa, Sri Lanka



kid's scrapbook smiles of fallen petals

young widow a pink blossom on her hat

Radhika De Silva, Sri Lanka





gesture of petals even for the penniless below the feet

Pilippenge Asanka Iraj Laknatha, Sri Lanka



a sip of tea ah...the bud opens dropping lense

Pilippenge Asanka Iraj Laknatha, Sri Lanka

scent of sakura all over the shiny sky petals down a stream

beside the pathway trees filled with blooming sakura faded petal carpet

Ramya Attanayake, Sri Lanka

Late in the season Even the last nightingale finds Cherry petals

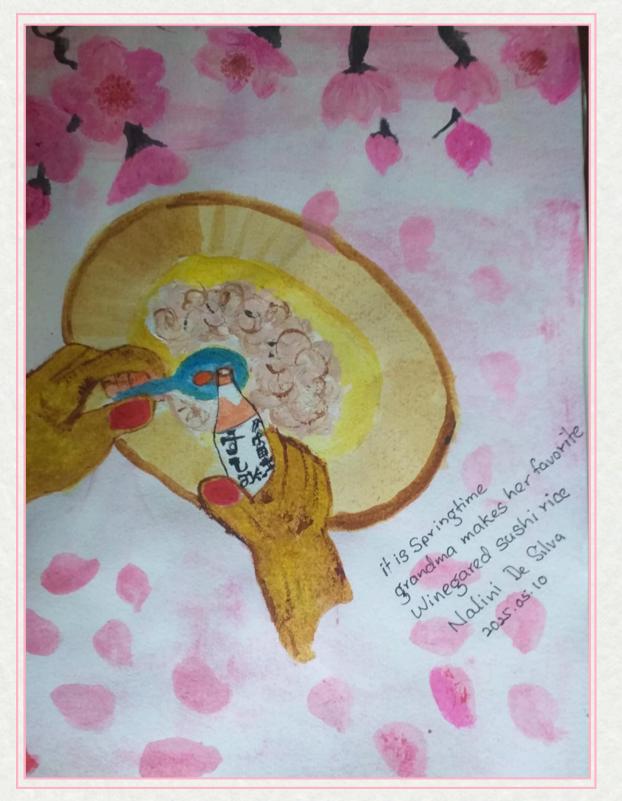
In the garden bench Where emptiness remains Cherry petals nestle

Damayanthi Ambepitya, Sri Lanka



pinky sky daughter's rose cheeks lovely Spring

Nalini de Silva, Sri Lanka

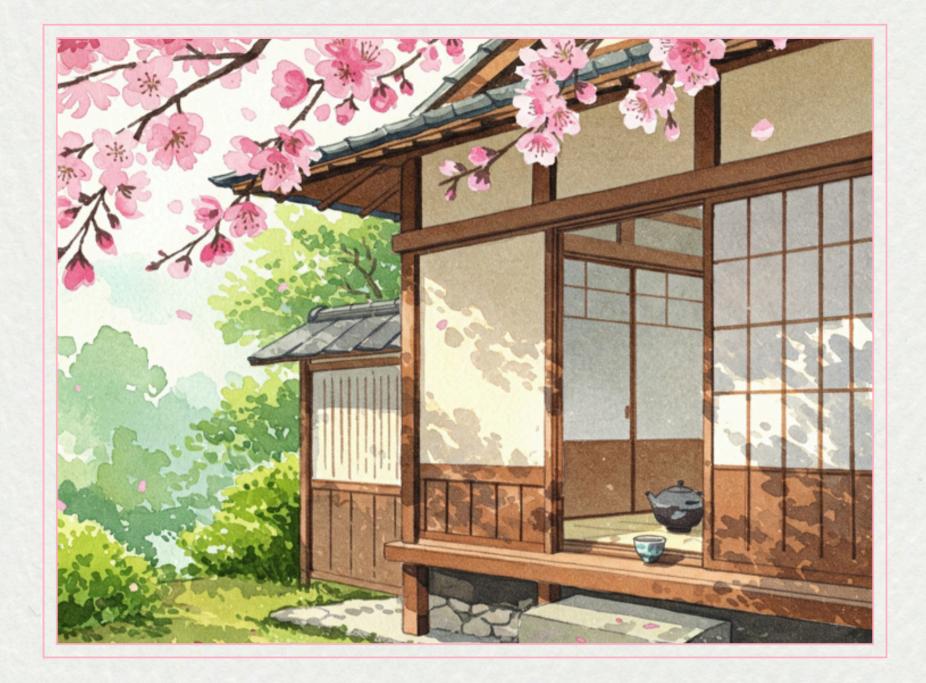


it is Springtime grandma makes her favorite Vinegared sushi rice

Nalini de Silva, Sri Lanka



## Haiku from Southeast Asia



In the clear morning, a teacup on the porch waits as blossoms arrive.

Khalid bin Idris, Malaysia



Petals kiss my hair, I forget my years again sakura smile wide.

Khalid bin Idris, Malaysia

sakura slow waltz on my 50th

sakura in bloom setting the phone camera to panorama

**Billy Antonio, Philippines** 

stoplight slowing it down. . . sakura skies

counting prayers – rosary in my pocket pink cherry petals

Anthony Q. Rabang, Philippines

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## Haiku from Africa

cherry blossoms a smile on my mother's face vibrancy of life

> ebullient blossoms awakening Nana's tale as we sit on the porch

> > Thompson Emate, Nigeria



# Haiku from Oceania

cherry blossom – old lovers stroll the same path

cherry blossom – her laughter travels long - distance

Anne Curran, New Zealand



#### Thank You

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all who contributed haiku and artwork to the 2025 SAKURA Haiku Challenge.