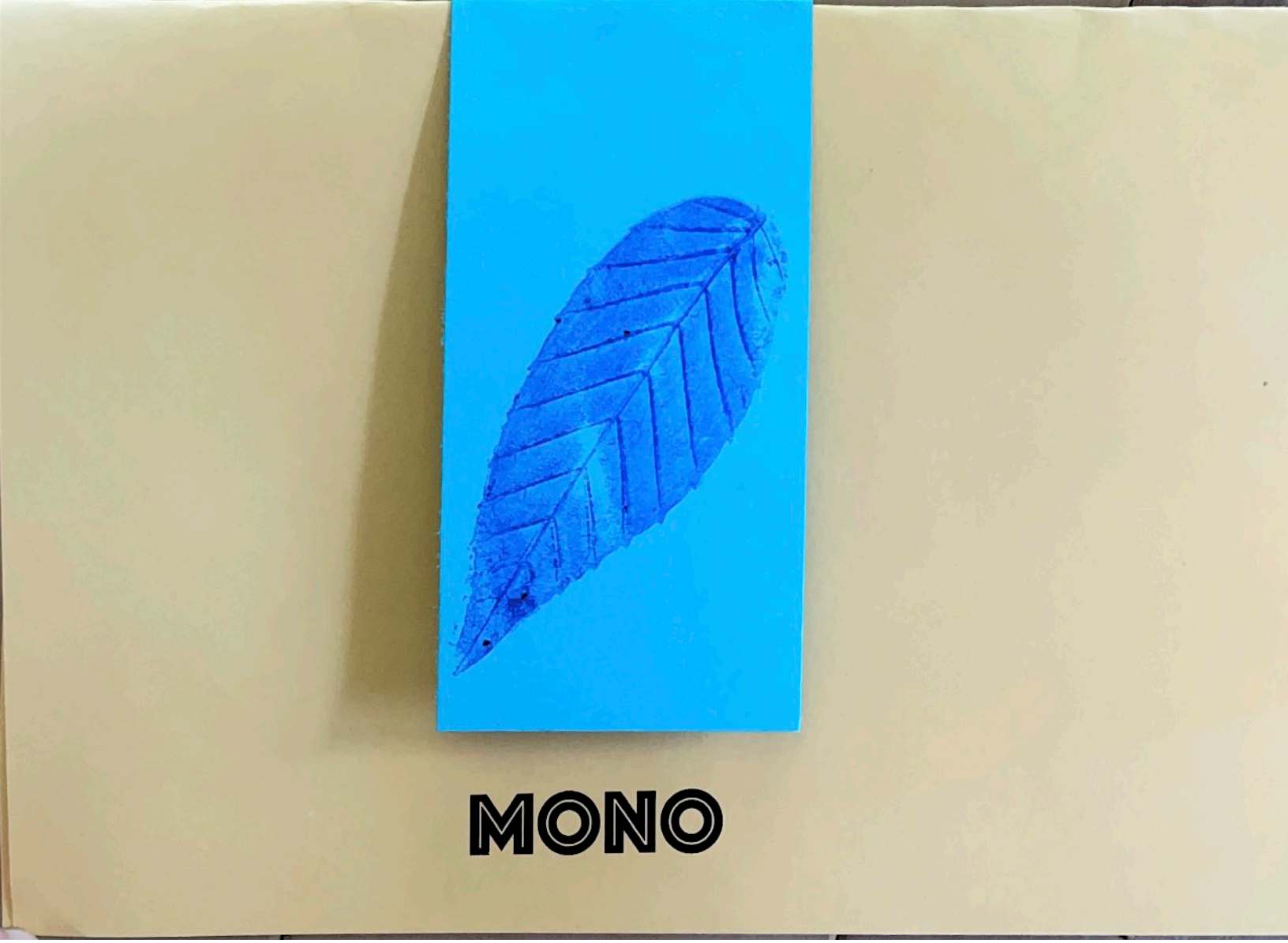


MONO:
English
monoku

edited by
Pearl Pirie



ISBN: 978-1-7380645-3-3 (print)
ISBN: 978-1-7380645-4-0 (digital)
www.pearlpirie.com/phafours
phafours press, 2026

Introduction

Monoku are in the haiku family. As with many shapes of poetry, it has at its core observational wit, paying attention, and mapping the inner to the outer. The aspect I like of monoku is its minimalist density. It may flash as a sequin, or acknowledge long slow truths but it doesn't have room to meander. It's an engineering micro-marvel, opening within a readers' mind. There's a tension, two possible readings, based on where you infer the unmarked caesura. Selecting poems and selecting poems that chime off each other are different beasts. Finding a tension and harmony between poems is part of the pleasure of putting a collection together, and of reading one.



Here is the thing. Everything starts with saying yes. Here's another thing. We live in a lucky era. We can read. We can write. We can freely associate. We can publish from our own homes. We can distribute what we like. We can take freedom for granted. And take community as an unquestioned given. To keep both, we have to keep practicing them, engaging and expanding to bring more people in who can hear and want to listen.

When I want to read something that resonates, I can pan for poetry gold randomly, or I can go to people I admire and say, in effect, I like your brain. *Could you send me a poem so I can show a bit of your brain to other people?* It's like holding the hypothetical dinner party but doing it for real. Except for the food. (Feel free to eat as you read. I advise papadams.) Thank you for opting in, to read, and to write and to share.

Pearl

trembling down the misty window a dribble of clarity

Michael Dudley
Pilgrimage, (Red Moon Press, 2017)

tree-lined street my daily gingko

Pamela Cooper





the now she returns to dementia

Roland Packer
tinywords 17.1 (2017)

one pigeon on the church roof facing the *rehto* way

Michael Dylan Welch



walking the tombolo at low tide terns

Jim Kacian

as you are outgoing tide

LeRoy Gorman
Frogpond 49.1, Winter 2026

Confederation Bridge the length of the horizon

Ellen Cooper

reversible coat as if it matters

kjmunro



fence post light sifting the ellipses of moths

Hifsa Ashraf

dusk knock knock nuthatch off

Marshall Hryciuk





forgotten combination to the safe word

Maxianne Berger
Haiku Canada Review, 15:2 (2021)

speaking in tongues narcissists

Mike Montreuil

where once there was that tree mushrooms

Dorothy Mahoney

children's laughter the colour palette of pool noodles

Antoinette Cheung
tinywords, issue 24.2 (2024)



just one more cartwheel the Milky Way

Chuck Brickley
Kingfisher 8 (2023)

just-picked lavender poets discuss indefinite articles

Claudia Coutu Radmore



Bios

Antoinette is a Vancouver-based poet and former co-editor of the senryu journal *Prune Juice* and coordinator of the Haiku Social Club for poets under 40.



Chuck is the author of two multi-award-winning books, *earthshine* (Snapshot Press, 2017, 5th printing), and *downhill home* (Snapshot Press, 2025, 2nd printing).

Claudia has often been caught putting words together.

An avid traveller, Dorothy has a travel haibun chapbook forthcoming in the fall with Woodbridge Farm Press.

Ellen likes to capture and share fleeting moments in few words.

Hifsa is an award-winning multilingual poet, author, editor, and social activist from Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

Jim has been writing monoku for 4 decades, and can’t seem to stop.

kj cultivates poetry on the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation & the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council in Whitehorse, Yukon.

LeRoy has been trying to write haiku for decades and hopes to someday get it right.

no golf but Marshall is still shooting in the 70's.

Maxianne lives in Montreal with her husband and their cat; her most recent collection is *You Are Here* (Yarrow Press, 2025).

Michael (www.michaeljdudley.com) has an especial interest in intercultural projects and creative collaborations that harmonize one-line and multi-line haiku with other modes of expression and connection.

Michael (DW) has been trying to write haiku since 1976, first learning in Alberta, and then in England, California, and Washington state.

Mike M. has been writing haiku for over 25 years. He has recently been appointed President of Haiku Canada. His latest book of haiku is *needing a vacation* (Yarrow, 2026)

Pamela has been collecting nature moments and spinning them into short-form poems since 1999; she wrote *Mittens Mismatched* (Éditions des Petits Nuage, 2019).

Pearl volunteers as the English reviews editor for *Haiku Canada Review*, and *ShoHyōRan* and has been running phafours press since 2007.

Roland lives in Hamilton Ontario. His most recent haiku collection is "no heroic measures" (Red Moon Press, 2024).



P.S. mono-printed leaves on each print copy are from: pear. chestnut, catnip, elm, grape, basswood, Saskatoon berry, poplar and aspen.

Poems by:

Antoinette Cheung
Chuck Brickley
Ellen Cooper
Jim Kacian.
LeRoy Gorman
Maxianne Berger
Michael Dudley
Pamela Cooper.
Claudia Coutu Radmore
Dorothy Mahoney
Hifsa Ashraf
kjmunro
Marshall Hryciuk
Michael Dylan Welch
Mike Montreuil
Roland Packer

