highway thru the pines:
line
a string of haiku replaces
Burma Shave signs

during love-making,
in her slipper under the bedd
scorpion

back to their old ways
leaving grandfather's grave:
feuding relatives

half way down the slope,
the shadow of the cougar
stalks the antelope

spring planting on the farm:
in the gym pumping iron
the old school marm

dropping to the floor
of the hospital lobby:
the pink carnation
slipping from her hand
hospital lobby
slipping from her hand to the floor
the pinking carnation
hospital lobby
slipping from her hand to the floor:
pink carnation

the wild geese are gone:
black silt settles and ripples
cease on the old pond

lowering the Bell
into the Delaware River:

Into the river,
lowering the Liberty Bell:
the British are coming

the Liberty Bell
lowered into the Delaware:

where the children played
among tombstone disarray:
frozen ground laid bare

where the small children play
where the small children
played in tombstone disarray:

lowering the Bell
in the Delaware River:
"The British are coming!"

the barnyard gate
broken open by the wind
liberates the lamb

slipping from her hand
slipping from her hand
slipping from her hand

slipping to the hospital lobby floor:
pink carnation

slipping to the floor of the hospital:
pink carnation

left out of the will:
even the farmyard flies
fight over the dunghill

lowering the Bell
into the Delaware River
the bell buoy tolls

the empty market

where slaves were sold to the highest bidder

How lovely the shadows

of weeds on the cement walk;

the summer wind.

Outside the meeting

of the Bible Society--

the slave auction

four slave children

sold without their mother;

bitter cold.

Pale shapes in the fog

sailing in from old Cape Cod

stroll the widow walk.

The temple bell tolls

at twilight, the scent of incense

mingles with the breeze.

The temple bell tolls

and the scent of blossoms rolls

Pale shapes in the fog

sailing in from old Cape Cod

shadow the widow walk.

her bobbing breasts

streaked with black tresses

lilies on the pond

The old farmer

has left his heart and soul

in the hammock

down the dusty trail

shouldering his trusty pole;

shady fishing hole.

four slave children

taken from their mother;

bitter cold.

the village park:

a stray dog lifting its leg

salutes the statue.

Memorial Day:

a stray dog lifting its leg

salutes the statue.

the blind beggar's back

on the city street corner

the clock tower bell

and the noisy city below

silenced by the snow.

The clock tower bell

and the twilight city below

silenced by the snow.

wading in the lake

among water lilies
I would translate my heart
Into the language of art;
I would create a treasure
Of poems for your pleasure.

I would cast my own soul
In the supporting role;
In the dialogue of love,
I would play hand to your glove.

is revealing the secret
of the fishing hole

down the dusty road
dragging the pole

trail

down the dusty road
shouldering his trusty pole;
secret fishing hole.

lilacs in the meadow

like the april breeze
rippling the village flag
little brother's free.

a mallard and drake
copulating on the lake;
the spawn of the moon.

a water lily
is bringing the first day
of summer to a close

still before the storm:

mafia meeting
at midnight, a lone candle
centers the silent circle.

witches
mafia meeting
at midnight, a lone candle
centers the family circle.

a mallard and brood
on the lake, the yellow moon
stacking doubloons

down the dusty road
dragging bamboo pole and line;
secret fishing-hole.

down the dusty road
shoulders

still before the storm
a scarecrow's silhouette
against the setting sun.

composing another poem
in Emerson's home.

gaunt shapes in the fog
rolling in from old Cape Cod
haunt the widow walk.

where the Lone Ranger
rode across the silver screen
a lot filled with weeds.
The picnic table
after dark, a lone candle
centers the circle.

a browsing doe at dusk
dropping the corn cob and husk

browsing doe at dusk
dropping the crushed cob and husk:
a mouse comes for crumbs.

browsing doe at dusk
ignoring scorning the corn cob and husk:
dormouse comes for crumbs.

on the deserted beach
in the moonlight, the creeping surf
reaches sleeping lovers.

A dark autumn night

Valentina Sinkevich
4915 N. 12th Street
Phila., Pa. 19141
DA 4-7391 Home
EV 2-5104 work

on the picnic table
a lone candle scenter

on the picnic table,
a lone candle centers
the family circle.

surf creeping in the moonlight
touches the soles of lovers
winter midnight:
a lone candle scents
Winter midnight
a lone candle centers
the silent circle.

the deserted beach
in the moonlight, creeping surf
reaches sleeping lovers.

on the deserted beach
covered with moonlight, creeping surf
reaches sleeping lovers.

marooned on the beach
covered with moonlight, creeping surf
reaches sleeping lovers.

meeting at midnight:
a lone candlelight centers
the silent circle.
among rows and rows
of white cresses matching snow:
patches of young grass

passing among rows
of cresses shadowing snow:
growing among rows
of cresses shadowing snow:
patches of young grass

growing among rows
go rings among rows
go rings among rows
go rings among rows
of cresses shadowing young grass:
growing among rows
go rings among rows
go rings among rows
go rings among rows
of cresses shadowing young grass:
growing among rows
of cresses shadowing snow:
moss and young grass
growing among rows
go rings among rows
go rings among rows
go rings among rows
of cresses shadowing snow:
growing among rows
of cresses shadowing snow:
the Pentagon lawn:
spilling human blood
the Pentagon lawn
a puddle of human blood

Washington dawn:
a puddle of human blood
on the Pentagon steps

New Year's peace rally:
a puddle of human blood
on the Pentagon steps

New Year's dawn:
a puddle of human blood
on the Pentagon steps

New Year's prayers for peace:
a puddle of human blood
on the Pentagon steps

on the Pentagon steps,
a puddle of human blood:
New Year's prayers for Peace

a sockeye salmon
swimming upstream: the gleam
in the grizzly's eye
New Year's morning rain
a puddle of human blood
stains the Pentagon steps

by his wife's coffin,
among drooping sunflowers:
his oxygen tank

New Year's prayers for peace
kneeling on the Pentagon steps

New Year's prayers for peace:
a puddle of blood drips down
the Pentagon steps

the flag at half-mast,
its halyard slapping the pole:
bitter cold

the flag at half-mast,
its halyard slapping the pole:
cold and overcast
the short night closes,
still the old master poet
thinks and composes
New Year's morning;
the fading century plant
sheds another bloom

New Year's morning mist
through the toy horn on the park bench:
the stench of stale beer

New Year's morning
the stray cat in the corn crib
dropping another kitten
in the corn crib
cemetery shade
withered
mading through the withered grass
to grandmother's grave

flag-covered coffin
shadowing the dewy grass:
his posthumous son

flag-covered coffin
shadowing the dewy grass:
the pregnant widow

New Year's in the rain
playing with a stray kitten
thinking up a name

in the shallows of the creek:
short night

New Year's morning
lifting the new born
thinking up a name

New Year's Day
picking up the stray kitten
thinking up a name

the short night fades
in the shallows of the lake:
a white heron wades

as the short night fades
in the shallows of the lake:
a white heron wades

like the manta ray
shadowing the shallow bay:
low flying crow

low-flying crow

and the manta ray below
shadows the shallow bay

the cathedral bell
tolling through the morning cold
up against the bridge
at the edge of the spillway:
derelict rowboat
among rows and rows
of crosses shadowing snow:
patches of young grass

cold misty beach:
flocks of screeching gulls
roost on rocks and hulls
the cold misty beach
at dusk, flocks of screeching gulls
roost on rocks and hulls
cold misty beach:
flocks of screeching gulls
roost on rocks and hulls

the desert wind
lifting a bleached skull
uncovers a skeleton
cemetery shade

the flag's shadow
stretching to the crater:
footprints on moon sand

the sun in the pond
touching a wild apple core:
the mouth of a carp

the vanity box:
a sun ray through the mirror
plots the Milky Way

up against the barbed wire fence
wind-blown newspaper
up against the barbed wire fence
slipping past the guard
wind-blown newspaper
slipping past the guard
and over the barbed wire fence:
wind-blown newspaper
the distant graveyard
and city skyline beyond
dawn on the tundra:
a pack of timber wolves
track a wounded fawn

the distant skyline
quivering in the heat wave:
river at my feet

the distant graveyard
quivering in the heat wave:
river at my feet

the far graveyard
quivering in the heat wave:
river at my feet

the Quaker graveyard
quivering in the heat wave:
river at my feet

New Year's morning:
the century plant
sheds another bloom

New Year's morning
distant candlelight
spreading the thighs of the grove
opens the eye of night
up against the bridge,
at the edge of the spillway:
the moon in a boat

Maty had a little lamb
Lily
out of the water...
out of itself.

the town clock's face
adds another shade yellow
to the afterglow

mother with
a cake that failed
gives the birds a treat

deep in rank grass.
through a bullet-riddled helmet:
an unknown flower

lover when I'm near you

mother with a cake that failed gives
the birds a treat

shadowsing old snow,
rows and rows of white crosses:
patches of young grass
among rows and rows
crosses shadowing old snow:
father and son
sitting at opposite poles
cross lines in creek

lifting the coffin
with the tips of their fingers:
a leaf in the wind

at the open grave
mingling with the priest's prayer:
honking of wild geese

Viet Nam Monument
darkened by the autumn wind:
my dead brother's name

mother
with a cake that failed,
gives the birds a treat

old snow on the graves
on the soldiers' graves
patches of snow

on the soldiers' graves
old snow matching the crosses
patches of young grass
among white crosses
among rows of cross
rows and rows of white crosses
among rows and rows
of white crosses.
the empty rowboat,  
and the Shinto shrine beyond:  
the moon in the pond  
touching an empty rowboat:  
the Shinto shrine beyond

at her funeral  
standing among

at her funeral  
standing near drooping corn stalks:  
his oxygen tank

the funeral mass:  
rows of empty pews reserved  
for the Senior Class

atop the poplar  
shadowing the run-over cat  
mockingbird's requiem

the wake in the church  
at his wife's wake,  
standing near drooping sunflowers  
an oxygen tank

beneath an empty rowboat:  
the moon in the pond

the muddy creek:  
a snapping turtle surfaces  
with fish in its beak

In the muddy creek,  
a snapping turtle surfaces:  
a fish in its beak

cut of the creek,  
a snapping turtle surfaces  
with pout in its beak

deep in the channel  
of the creek, sleeping carp:  
the afternoon heat

leaving the shallows,  
creek  
cooling in the channel:  
the afternoon heat

leaving the shallows,  
creek  
sleeping in the channel:  
the afternoon heat

the peeling black paint  
on the back of the mirror  
plots the Milky Way

after the blizzard,  
frozen  
breaking through the icy lake:  
suffocating catfish

the cold misty beach:  
flocks of screeching seagulls  
decorate rocks and hulls

the cold misty beach  
in the distance, flocks of gulls  
decorate rocks and hulls
a gliding oak leaf
is taking the first snowflake
for a free ride

through the icicled eaves
of the old Chinese inn--
the hiss of the wind
through the icicles
whiskering the eaves of the inn:
the hiss of the wind

marching majorettes
mirrored in bells of tubas:
stadium roar

the old monk sneezes,
and a milkweed seed tumbles
in the autumn breeze

starting the New Year
in tears: hernia-heart attack-
ransacked apartment
ascending the wall
of my dead brother's bedroom:
pencil marks how tall

the dried up creek
a dead dog: draws flie

a pair of muskrats
romping through the sunny swamp
a pair of bear cubs
romping through the sunny swamp
came upon a skunk

two old wines
canvassing the crowded bus stop
pool a few pennies
down the dark alley,
in an empty garbage can:
the depths of hunger
the mimosa grove
and the afterglow beyond

motel bible:
looking for haiku
in the Book of Psalms

that old shuttered house
standing mute in the moonlight
sheltered three shrews
the cold blast
curving icicled eaves:
the crescent moon

icicled eaves
curved by the verve of the wind:
crescent moon
distant candlelight
distant candlelight
spreading the thighs of the grove

the sunlit foxtail
along the edge of the swamp:
a romping squirrel
motel bible:

discovering a haiku
in the Book of Psalms
concert in the park;  
cicadas are ringing down  
the curtain of dark  

on a sheet of ice  
drifting on the tidal creek  
the missing boy's sled  

on the tidal creek,  
drifting on a sheet of ice;  
the missing boy's sled  

roadside mailbox  
whining in the dust storm  
its red flag up  
roadside mailbox  
choked with dust and cobwebs  

along the lake shore  
mixing with cicada song  
snorling fisherman  
sick room silence:  
family circle centers  
flickering candle  

on the tidal creek,  
drifting on a sheet of ice;  
missing Christmas sled  

on the tidal creek,  
sliding on a sheet of ice;  
missing Christmas sled  

deeper in the woods  
diminishing raindrops  
stop at the dry brook  
the rain-swept graveyard:  
a crowd of black umbrellas  
the first snowflake  
is taking a free ride  
on a gliding leaf  

trapped muskrat  
gnawing off a forepaw:  
rising creek  
the brooding killdeer  
mother killdeer  
dragging a crippled wing  
decoying the red fox  
mother killdeer  
luring  
decoying the fox from her nest  
reigns a lame wing  
mother killdeer  
acting the fearful cripple  
distracts brother fox
little brother shouts
running along the shore:
the frozen marsh

little brother pleads
running along the shore:
big brother trapping

old Mexico drought:
a peasant boy paces
the arroyo

old Mexico drought:
a barefooted boy inspects
the dry arroyo

old Mexico drought:
a barefooted boy paces
the dry arroyo

a school of catfish
scattering a shoal of shad
scramble the amber moon

winter mosquito
buzzing about the bathroom

Asian monsoon
chasing clouds across the sky
erases the moon

cemetery shade
afternoon
taking a noonday nap
near grandmother's grave

old Mexico drought:
out of the cracked arroyo:
slithering lizard

another autumn
still silent in his closet:
father's violin

ascending the wall,
pencil marks measure how tall:
the end of the war

family bathtub:
river carp swimming about
for Passover meal

master sunrise
creeping into the empty crypt:
the shadow of the cross

under the spring sun,
over the run-over cat:
a mockingbird sings

the frozen great lake
blanketed by the blizzard:
suffocating catfish

the great bronze bungha
squatting in the snowy square
brightens the moonlight

along the lake shore
mingling with cicada song:
a fisherman snores
swinging the hand line
landing by the lily pads:
distant church bell

swinging the hand line
sounding the depths of the lake:
distant church bell

bitter cold morning:
a group of old cronies move
to the south corner

now it grows warmer

now the days grow cold:
a group of old cronies move
to the south corner

the morning grows cold

windowpane designs
is helping the kept in boy
forget the cold rain

unemployment line
lengthening to the foyer:
short night

unemployment line
strung around the city block:
short night

by the dried up well
beside the empty farmhouse:
cicada shell

by the rain barrel
beside the empty farmhouse:
cicada shell

not a breath of air
the death of dandelion

Not
not a breath of air;
one puff of dandelion
enough to bring the rain

not a breath of air:
one puff of dandelion
enough to bring rain

the clouded sun shows
a row of mourning doves

the clouded sun shows
a row of doves on a wire
dripping melting snow

the clouded sun shows
a row of mourning doves
on a wire dripping snow

clouded sun:
lone dove on telephone wire
dripping snow

empty street market
filled with weathered wooden tables:
cold rain beats down

In that shuttered shack
cluttered with litters of cats

little brother ashore
shouting: Take me with you!
the frozen marsh

shouting ashore
holding up the dead muskrat
the sun in the trap
Easter sunrise
creeping into the empty crypt:
the shadow of the cross

a flight of wild geese
frightened by the Chinese kite
increases the breeze

empty nursing home:
rocking chairs gathering dust
face the far graveyard

empty nursing home:
rocking chairs gathering dust
from the old churchyard

empty nursing home:
old porch chairs gathering dust
rock in the cold wind

empty nursing home:
rusty chairs gathering dust
rock in the cold wind

the deserted church:
a chipmunk in the chapel
samples Sacraments

through the churchyard fence,
a chipmunk in the chapel
samples Sacraments

a distant drumbeat
in the summer morning mist:
Cornwallis's retreat

with high-pitched voices
discussing nuclear freeze

with high-pitched voices
discussing nuclear freeze:
pair of rocking chairs

with squeaky voices
discussing nuclear freeze:
pair of rocking chairs

island lagoon:
a grounded schooner rises
with the moon and tide

This New Year's tourist
tossing another penny
on Ben Franklin's Tomb

tourists on New Year's
tossing another penny
on Ben Franklin's Tomb

on the creek bottom,
among years of beer bottles:
snapping turtle

raising the cane pole,
lowering the minnow net:
silhouettes in cold rain
tiny dragonfly
lighting on the fishing line;
distant church bell

Walt Whitman's tomb
in a vault in the hillside,
hides the autumn moon
fishing by the lake
awakened by the church bell

city heat wave:
bubblegum on the pavement
sticking to my feet

the frozen pond thaws:
the pine in the snowy pond beyond,
a crow caws and caws

the evening still
filling the grieving village:
Virgilic killed

where Ben Franklin's
buried pennis on the tomb
tossing another penny
on Ben Franklin's tomb

New Year's mornings:
tossing another penny
on Ben Franklin's tomb

old Mexico

triple by pass
holding the pillow to his chest
golden dragonfly
patrolling the open grave
eyes the folded flag
golden dragonfly
patrolling the open grave
defies the waving flag
rising and falling
all day long, mosquito larvae
in the stagnant pond

Easter sunrise
creeping into the empty crypt
shines on the
finds the winding sheet

Easter sunrise
creeping into the empty crypt
shines on Christ's winding sheet

the old village scold
swinging the hand line
baited with corn meal and worms:
distant church bell

the old village scold
facing a rubber rattle snake
chases school children
the old village scold
facing a fake rattlesnake
chases school children

old Mexico drought
pacing the dry arroyo
facing the blazing sun
hospital chapel

In the empty church,
a chipmunk in the chapel
samples the sacraments.

cathedral ruins:
a chipmunk in the chapel
samples the sacraments.

deserted temple:
a chipmunk in the chapel
samples the sacraments.

moonlit city lot

strewn with sticks and broken bricks

the smell of muscatel

is helping a wheeping hound

on the wine cellar

a gust of spring wind

is helping a ball of dust

clear the prison wall

a gust of spring wind

is flinging a ball of dust

over prison walls

the town drunkard sleeps,
while his old mother shovels
snow into the street

that mad mockingbird
has added my flat whistle
to his repertoire

that mad mockingbird
has added my flat whistle
to his antenna act

through the churchyard fence,
a chipmunk in the chapel
samples sacraments.

deserted temple:
a chipmunk in the chapel
samples sacraments.

between the hawk's screams
mingling with the morning mist:
the turtledoves talk

empty ballroom

basking in the moonlight

fallen mask

a gust of spring wind

is lifting a ball of dust

over the prison wall

the belly of the falcon

dark before the storm:
a hailstone strikes the lantern

bailed to the barn door

shovels the sidewalk
the sea
on the scarecrow's shoulder
upholding the crippled crow

that snowy scarecrow
upholding the crippled crow
scolds the skulking cat

old stone angel
stolen from the soldier's tomb;
tolls the bell

cold wind and rain

removing the fetus
stuffing her womb with feathers
bitter cold

that star mockingbird
performing on the antenna

that star mockingbird
has added my whistling tune
to its repertoire

that star mockingbird
has added my flat whistle
to its repertoire

on his bedroom wall,
pencil marks measure how tall:
my dead brother's name

the drifting rowboat
lifting the dreaming Thoreau
lands on a sand bar

money 

subway graffiti
supporting nuclear freeze;
spring morning breeze

is helping the whelping hound

now the elder blooms

flag-covered coffin;
zigzagging dragonfly
patrols the open grave

on the hot creek bank
kneeling and not speaking:
crickets cranking reels

In the empty church
creaking in the autumn wind:
a bell tolls and tolls

on the darkened wall
fingerprints and pencil marks
measured how tall

on the darkened wall,
his fingerprints and pencil marks measured how tall

empty shopping mall:
mechanical rocking horse
covered with fallout

the drifting boat
the empty temple:
a chipmunk in the chapel
samples the sacraments
spitting images
rippling the moon in the well
spitting images

spitting images
hitting rippling reflections:
the moon in the well

the spring morning breeze
is making the old maple
turn over new leaves

empty street market
mailheads sticking up
the beat of the cold rain

empty street market:
old tables with nails sticking up
beat of cold rain

rusty shopping carts
in the stream by the mail

empty street market
weathered tables
the old village scold
taking after school children
holds a rubber snake

empty street market:
cold rain on wooden tables
beats down on mailheads

empty street market
with weathered weeded tables:
cold rain driving nails

on the hot creek bank
kneeling and not speaking:
reeling in an eel

on the hot creek bank
kneeling and not speaking:
spinning
cranking the rusty reel

pair of rocking chairs
discussing nuclear freeze

city heat wave:
the tarred road to grandfather's
sticks to my feet

supporting nuclear freeze

the long winding road
through the woods to the lake:
short night

the bridegroom curses,
while the bride in the bedroom
recites her verses

easter sunrise:
the shadow of the cross
creeps into the crypt

mother and daughter
cought in the cold wind and rain
exchange aches and pains
sparks from the campfire
starts the storyteller's tale
of the Milky Way

a gliding condor
rising in the high Andes
lights on the hand of Christ

the empty temple
at twilight, a stray firefly
tempts the praying child

little feet at low tide
climbing over the shore rocks
gathering dulse

little feet climbing
over rocks gathering dulse
the pulse of the sea
climbing over rocks,
little feet gathering dulse:
the pulse of the sea
climbing over rocks,
little children gather dulse:
climbing over rocks,
little children gather dulse:
climbing over rocks
gathering dulse, little feet in wet socks
climbing over rocks,
children gathering dulse:
the pulse of the sea

letting the school kids
into Walt Whitman's house:
spring morning breeze

In the sticky heat
walking to the cemetery
tar under my feet
walking in the heat
on the road to the graveyard:
tar sticks to my feet

on the snowy lot
kids burning Christmas trees:
roasting potatoes

on the snowy lot
aglow
walking in the heat
country heat wave:
the tarred road to the graveyard
sticks to my feet

the distant earthquake
shaking a few dewdrops
on the tops of my shoes

this wandering poet
coming out of the mountains
encounters the moon
empty phone booth:
trapped sparrow orbits
dangling receiver
a gust of night wind

closing the rusty gate tight

clothesline ghosts

sick room silence:
flickering candle centers

the old storyteller
holding the boy by the ear

the rule on his rear

the distant church bell

disturbing the spellbound child

searching for helpless lead soldier

flag-covered coffin

ever the open grave

golden dragonfly

guarding the open grave

spark from the campfire

starts the old storyteller's tale of the Milky Way
where cattle rallied

where cavalry rallied
the battle for the valley;
the rattle of weeds

up cathedral steps
covered with rice and confetti

where light cavalry
rallied the valley battle:
the rattle of weeds

a toy cicada
clinging to the window sill
sings to the sick boy

sycamore cicada
under the sick room window
serenades the boy

where stampeding cattle
rallied the battle for the valley
where stampeding cattle
rallied the valley battle:
the rattle of weeds

the moon in the pond
sunken logs strewn on the bottom
the tune of his flute

In the dark valley

wooded
the wooded island:
a column of cabin smoke
locates the lovers

now the flag is still
monument
shadowing the open grave:
bugler on the hill

on the first step
of the anniversary cake:
a fallen candle

first the scarecrow's vest
rotting in the fallow field:
lines the mouse's nest

by the chicken coop,
a sweeping Cooper's hawk breaks
the brooding silence

by the chicken coop,
a sweeping Cooper's hawk
breaks the brooding silence

the autumn moon---
leaves
the old storyteller fills
the empty tea room

the runaway slave
hiding in the haystack:
the noonday sun
after the blizzard,
a circling turkey buzzard
centers a bawling calf

another spring comes,
my palsied mother gazes
at the blooming plum

still in the attic
gathering dust and rotting:
combat boots from Nam

master artist
carving alabaster:
harvest moon

where caribou bucks
locked antlers on the tundra:
crumbling
wind-swept skeletons

at the calving grounds
teeming with mosquitoes and flies:
caribou stampede

gathering dust and rotting:
combat boots from Nam

Hospital stillness
stopped on my father's wrist:
my dead brother's watch
between the fire bell
and barking dog in the fog:
the frog in the well

my palsied mother
gazing at the blooming plum
planted by brother

alone in the field,
abandoned by its mother:
the wolverine's meal

on the darkened wall
ascending pencil marks
the end of the war

on his bedroom wall,
pencil marks measure how tall:
the end of the war

on his bedroom wall,
pencil marks measure how tall:
The years of the war

mother's hopes and fears
parked by the dark lake
up to the hogsays in mud:
moon in a puddle

BY
in the chicken coop
at midnight, a swooping owl
breaks the brooding silence

the first mosquito
bursting from the rain barrel
against the yellow moon

the first mosquito
rising from the rain barrel
against the yellow moon

Thanksgiving dinner
filling the empty space
with a high chair

the clock tower bell
spelling the names on the wall
recalls the war dead

empty rain barrel
filled with faded leaves and snow:
farmhouse shadow

tenement pup
screwing up canine courage:
scent of cabbage stew

tenement boy
screwing up his courage:
scent of cabbage stew

after the blizzard,
a bawling calf centers
the circling buzzard
down the wading pool drain
choked with faded oak leaves;
the sound of summer rain

a dark autumn day
marking the iron fence gate
recalls the fatal fall

a dark autumn day...
recalling the fatal fall
marking the metal gate

a dark autumn day
recalling the fatal fall
marks the metal gate

Thanksgiving dinner:
filling the empty space
with an orphan's face

through the rectory door,
gusts of wind—snow flurries—
and food for the poor

tenement supper
screwing up the boy's courage:
scent of cabbage stew
by the meandering inchworm, half of the short night measures the wolverine approaching; the caribou calf

by the meandering inchworm, half of the short night measures the wolverine approaching; the caribou calf

burping her colicky sen; disgusted, dropping the pencil in the old pond, on the grass of the lawn, splitting the leaves of the linden, dripping blossoms, sweetening the breeze. The first mosquito bursts from the rain barrel, waiting for the wolverine; by the meandering inchworm, half of the short night measures the wolverine approaching; the caribou calf

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leaf cutter ant

entering the grove
centering on the silence:

lake waters lapping
the smell of the cove
of cicadas

dew on the casket
blending with holy water

coffin

an autumn evening
plumbing the depths of hunger
in an empty can

In an empty can
plumbing the depths of hunger

bloody on the coffin
blending with holy water

the end of the war

on the hard clay bank,
a snapping turtle laying eggs
the moon in the lake

on the hard clay bank,
guarding snapping turtle eggs

In the hard clay bank,
clutch of snapping turtle eggs:
the moon in the

a snapping turtle
laying eggs in the clay bank:
the moon in the lake

warming its belly
beneath the TV antenna:
squirrel on chimney

the grove by the lake
a single cicada
dereps the silence

cooling its belly
beneath the leafy linden:
squirrel on sidewalk

after the long drought--
the shower--and the steaming hour
of the stable roof

turning from the streetlight--
following my shadow
into the dark night

a barking puppy
on the bank of the river:
a small muddy shoe

emerging from a murky cloud