

# A HAIKU MOMENT

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INSPIRATION FROM JAPAN

ART MEETS POETRY

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**Boulder, Colorado, [2011].** On view July 30 through August 28, 2011 at the Canyon Gallery, Boulder Public Library, *A Haiku Moment*—an exhibition of contemporary art and poetry inspired by Japan.

## Inspiration in Haiku

A Japanese haiku poem is a 17-syllable verse form consisting of three metric phrases of 5, 7, and 5 syllables. Haiku poetry uses language sparingly to evoke a scene from nature, a revelation of spirit, or express a simple commentary on a moment in daily life. The power of haiku is in its ability to give the reader a brand new experience of a well-known situation. The poet Kawahigashi Hekigoto suggested that haiku is truer to reality when it has no center of interest. The space around the object or phrase possesses its own poignancy as part of the complete artistic expression.

The traditional Japanese arts are often described as possessing a minimalist sensibility that emphasizes an idea that in the West might be conveyed as “less is more.” *A Haiku Moment* focuses on art that embodies the simplicity and empathy of Japanese haiku poetry—the depth, complexity, and imagery expressed within a simple structure—one of the distinguishing and enigmatic features of Japanese-inspired art.

## The Art & Artists

The artists' works in *A Haiku Moment* impart simplicity and serenity--capturing a moment in time and revealing the extraordinary in the ordinary. **William Corey's** photographs of Japan beg you to slow down and contemplate the world around you. The sculptural works of **Yoshitomo Saito** and **Pamela Olson** transform ordinary leaves, roots and branches into bronze and porcelain, creating something else entirely. Saito, who uses the venerable lost-wax technique, says, "*Bronze reminds me of Marcel Marceau--quiet, yet expressive. It can mimic another object so well that without saying a word, it speaks a certain truth in its task.*" In contrast to the weighty bronze, Olson's porcelain installation "*Late Autumn Wind*" has the delicate, temporal feeling of capturing a fragile moment in time. The delicate porcelain leaves lie scattered to the wind. **Jane Guthridge**, curator of *A Haiku Moment*, creates art that is lush, luminous and ethereal. She uses beeswax and pigment on mulberry paper to capture the rhythm and poetry of falling blossoms. Hinting at horizon lines, **Linda Saport's** atmospheric oil paintings create a sense of vast space evoking contemplation. **Jennifer Falck Linssen's** hand carved katagami-style sculptures in paper and metal reflect upon the refinement and harmony of fine Japanese craft. Their exquisite wave-like shapes reference a frame of mind or a moment in time. **The Kalapa Sogetsu Ikebana Group** will create minimalist flower arrangements in response to the art and poetry of the exhibition. Using color combinations, natural shapes and graceful lines, they inspire one to identify with the concepts of beauty, asymmetry, open space, and depth. Sogetsu ikebana is a form of living sculpture.

**A Haiku Moment will also include several free interactive community events, including:**

- **Opening Reception—Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 5—7 pm**
- **Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 11 am—Noon Ikebana**—The Art of Japanese Flower Arranging by Kalapa Ikebana, Senior Students of Sogetsu Colorado Branch
- **Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 11 am—Noon Seventeen Syllables**—Introduction to Haiku Writing Workshop
- **Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 11 am—Noon Between the Folds**—Rocky Mountain PBS film screening of the internationally award-winning documentary exploring the art, creativity, and science of origami.
- **Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:15 am—Noon Boulder Folders Origami Workshop**
- **Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 11 am—Noon Ikebana**—The Art of Japanese Flower Arranging by Kalapa Ikebana, Senior Students of Sogetsu Colorado Branch
- **Ongoing:** Haiku Branches—a place in the gallery to compose and hang your own haiku poems, while simultaneously creating an interactive art installation.

Gallery hours at the Boulder Public Library are Monday–Thursday: 10 am–9 pm, Friday–Saturday: 10 am–6 pm, Sunday: 12 pm–6pm

For more information please contact: Boulder Public Library, 1001 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder, CO 80302. Phone: 303-441-3100; Website: <http://boulderlibrary.org>

or Jane Guthridge: <http://www.janeguthridge.com>

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