

# HAIKU

SURASHREE JOSHI

Haiku is a minimalist form of poetry from Japan. It has thousands of years of history. It is woven into the very fabric of Japanese life and culture. Nature is deeply embedded into it. People writing haiku today still read and follow the great masters like Basho and Shiki. It is a bit difficult to put into words what actually the process of writing haiku is. It can be different for different people. So you can say that it is deeply personal yet remains universal at some level. Haiku emphasises a lot on concrete imagery. One of the best ways to describe it would be "Write a haiku and see if a child can draw it!"

Haiku in English has come a long way and has become more complex and encompassing. Haiku poets try to capture the essence of human nature, complex imagery and an array of emotions along with nature. Haiku in English has moved away from the traditional 5-7-5 structure. A lot of brilliant experiments are taking place in terms of form and content. What amazes me personally is the thought of expressing an image, either concrete or abstract, in the least possible words and juxtaposing it with something that makes sense only in my head probably!

These haiku are based on my interpretation of what a subculture might mean. These poems are a mix of tercets (3-lines) and monoku (1-line).

**Surashree Joshi** is an English teacher by profession. She is an avid reader and a published haiku poet. She is currently dabbling in erasures and digital arts. (Instagram @surashree\_ulhas\_joshi)

Illustration Credit: **Vijayalakshmi** (Instagram @artsy\_hudugi) Vijayalakshmi is a designer whose practice spans art, craft, typography, and spatial design. Her work is characterized by abstract explorations of nature forms, inviting personal interpretation and engagement from the viewer.

kintsugi  
if only I could  
afford the gold

(tsuri-doro, Issue 17)

in between the saree pleats my mommy issues

(Failed Haiku, Volume 8, Issue 94)

sins we pass around sleepless nights

(Failed Haiku, Volume 8, Issue 92)

petrichor  
and the glue sniffers  
judge me

(FreshOut Magazine)

white coats  
an intervention  
of poppies

