

THE
Healing Spirit
OF
Haiku



David Rosen & Joel Weishaus

with illustrations by ARTHUR OKAMURA

The Healing Spirit of Haiku begins with a brief history of haiku, although it is not a book about haiku. Rather, it is a haibun of the psyche, a combination of prose and haiku about a soulful interactive journey that two old friends set out to accomplish together. David Rosen is a physician, Jungian analyst, the McMillan Professor of Analytical Psychology at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, and the author of eight books, including The Tao of Jung: The Way of Integrity (1997), and Transforming Depression: Healing the Soul Through Creativity (3rd Edition, 2002). Joel Weishaus is a poet, digital artist, literary critic, and visiting faculty member in the English Department, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon. Over the years, Rosen and Weishaus had discussed the concept of healing and what it means in the course of one's life. As both had lived and traveled in Japan, and had a shared interest in the haiku form of poetry, the book began to take shape along these lines. To complete the design of The Healing Spirit of Haiku, Arthur Okamura created twenty-seven monoprints. Okamura is Professor Emeritus at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, California. He and Weishaus had collaborated on the now rare Oxherding: A Reworking of the Zen Text (1971). Since then, Okamura has illustrated many books, including work by the poet Robert Creeley. He also illustrated Robert Bly's translations of the great Japanese haiku poets Bashō (1972) and Issa (1992).

Early Praise

"To have one's soul evoked by reading, that in itself can be a sacred act. To me, since forever, *el libro es sancta*: a book is blessed—for inside, there can be water glistening to moisten the parched throat, and a thunder of wings that can carry us to a homeplace where exists essential remembrance of 'what truly matters.' Haiku, to me, is the quintessential story form, one that like a twilight, is meant to be walked through with care, so as to see and feel the clarity of things that cannot be seen from a dusky afar. This work you hold in your hands offers that twilight walk, and more."

--Clarissa Pinkola Estés
author of Women Who Run with the Wolves and
The Gift of Story

"This book of texts and encounters, of poetic moments and prose commentaries, of interpersonal responses, has the feeling of a work that is both very ancient and utterly contemporary. It enacts what it is about—a spiritual journey, a creative healing."

--Edward Hirsch
author of Lay Back the Darkness and
Wild Gratitude

"This deeply human dialogue of haiku and commentary follows in the footsteps of Issa and Buson. Rosen and Weishaus express their psychological wisdom with lightness, humor, and a uniquely personal touch. A treasure!"

--Claire Douglas
author of Translate this Darkness and
The Woman in the Mirror

"I think a book should be intelligent, well-crafted, and beautiful. A book is not a message to grasp but an object to love. I love this new book of haiku and images and will be happy to be in its presence, touch it, and feast on it for many years. It is a perfect example of John Keats's idea of soul-making: transforming the everyday into beautiful and probing reflection. It is what Wallace Stevens called 'a mirror with a voice.'"

--Thomas Moore
author of Care of the Soul and
Dark Nights of the Soul

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