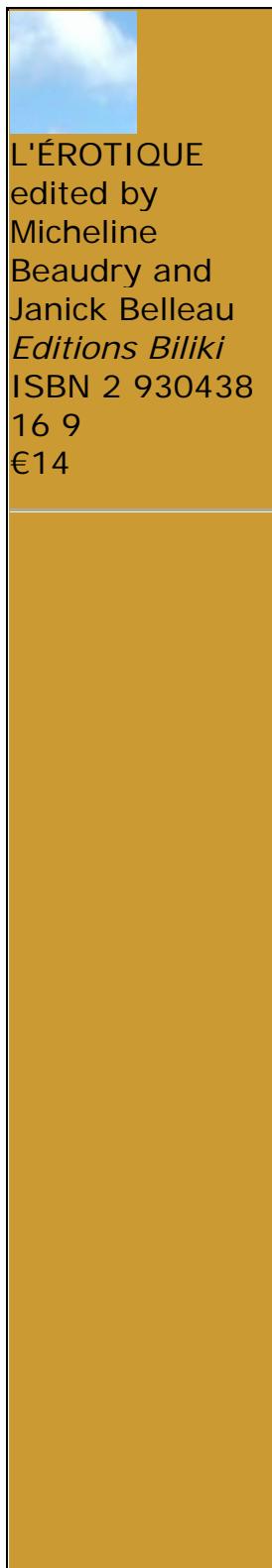


NEW HOPE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

An independent small press poetry review



L'ÉROTIQUE

For this reviewer, the most appealing aspect of haiku is their strength in capturing a moment of great meaning in very few words. For many people sex and sensual relationships are full of moments of great meaning and therefore offer an ideal subject for haiku. This collection gathers together haiku in French from across the world (primarily France and Quebec). It offers haiku moments from the whole range of erotic experience, from first attraction to breaking up. The collection is entirely in French, all translations here are the reviewer's own and attempt to stay true to the original whilst also attempting to be successful haiku in English.

There are a number of haiku about seemingly unacknowledged attraction, my favourite of these being the following by Olivier Walter:

nuit de juillet
elle pèle une pêche
couleur de sa peau.

*July night –
she peels a peach
the colour of her skin.*

There are also haiku about the first stages in the relationship, including this observation of an

Several of the haiku offer pictures of human sexual relationships set in the context of the natural world, with sometimes humorous effect

— Jessica Tremblay:

dans la forêt
un bruyant orgasme
chevreuil effrayé

*in the forest
a noisy orgasm –
frightened stag*

and sometimes painting a picture of sex as abstract art — Gilles Ruel:

sur le mur
mon pénis géant
pleine lune

*on the wall
my giant penis –
full moon.*

For me, the haiku that most truly live up to the title of *Erotic* are those that really capture the sensuality of the sexual experience — Louise Vachon:

kama-sutra
nos essences mêlées
un goût de fruit

*Kama Sutra
our essences blend –
taste of fruit*

There is a certain admirable honesty about this collection of erotic haiku in its inclusion of haiku about breaking up — Angela Leuck:

tu en as trouvé un autre
les fleurs de l'arbre
tombent si vite.

*you have found another –
the flowers of the tree
fall so quickly.*

This is a refreshingly varied collection of haiku about sex and sensuality, covering a broad range of human experience in this area. Just as with relationships themselves, there are some haiku that won't work for some readers, and some I suspect don't translate well. So pick and choose the ones that appeal the most and read them — alone or with your lover.

reviewer: Juliet Wilson. XII 2007