

Upwelling: haiku, tanka, and haibun by Lorraine A. Padden (Red Moon Press, Winchester, VA: 2022). 110 pages, 6" x 9". Four color covers, perfect softbound. ISBN: 978-1-958408-06-3. \$20 from www.redmoonpress.com

Upwelling is a collection of haiku, senryu, tanka and haibun, that the poet, Lorraine A. Padden, says “emerged” from her ongoing relationship with Zen Peacemakers International, whose members and affiliates “mobilize peace-building, humanitarian, social, and civic action.” This collection makes clear that peace-building is different from peace. The haiku are designed to unsettle, and they are relentless at that: *black-eyed susan / the garden / she left behind*. This is a book of quiet but strident protest over unforgiving realities: *line at the foodbank / the distance / between meals*. There are several good examples of concrete haiku. There is not a sense of any peace being made, and maybe that is supposed to be a point., but a little more peace in these poems might have been a good counterbalance to help illustrate what the poet is attempting to make. Little is spared of a critical lens in these pages; even trees become tyrants and butterflies become revolutionaries: *uprising / a thousand monarchs / take over a tree*. The book is at its best when subtly pointing out the absurdities of the world in which we live: *tuition you said lap dance*.

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