

Rough Cut by William Scott Galasso: Galwin Press, 2018, 137pgs. Includes related material and photos , \$12.95 US via Amazon.com sales and distribution, for further information on previously published books contact galwinpress@yahoo.com.

Reviewed by Tom Clausen

Rough Cut: Thirty Years of Senryu by William Scott Galasso has an introduction where clarification of the title is given: suggesting “that as human beings we are not perfect but works in progress, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. My hope is that you may recognize your own dramatis personae among the senryu you find here or that you may connect with those you have touched or been touched by on this life’s journey.”

It is safe to say that in thirty years most people experience an amazing range of experiences and William Scott Galasso has certainly lived a very full, eclectic and keenly observed life that he has documented faithfully and poignantly in *Rough Cut*. There is a wealth of living and a rewarding spectrum of life that Scott has presented in this collection with a perspicacious poise, passion and purpose. The human condition is illuminated throughout in this no holds barred collection that is noteworthy for its candor and directness.

While *Rough Cut* states that it is ‘Thirty Years of Senryu’ I found much more than just senryu in these pages. As I first began reading this epic sequence I actually wondered if the amount of senryu, over 300, might desensitize me if I read too many at once. It didn’t. What I discovered is that beside many memorable senryu zingers there are little poems, some haiku, some gentle life sketches and some lovely and intimate tributes to family members and lovers, with details that transcend the personal and touch on universal situations and experiences. The variety and changes in tone, subject matter and the quality throughout makes this a distinguished and extensive collection.

child asleep
daddy still reading
Prince Caspian

home movies
the living and the dead
at play again

I'll miss the lark song
in the morning, she said...
then closed her eyes

There are equally powerful poems about strangers caught in the flotsam jetsam of life at the edge and heart of woe that reminds of the gravity that claims people in every walk of life.

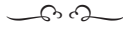
bitter wind
on a bus station bench
anonymous

bottle
broken as the life
beside it

after a meal, shower
and shave, the hobo
who looks like us

This is a collection with such breadth and depth that it is difficult to summarize, but I am sure everyone will recognize themselves their friends and their family somewhere in these pages. It is a book I highly recommend,

latest disguise
an old man feeding
pigeons in the park



Reflections of a Gardener. En trädgårdsmästares tankar. Haiku by Teresa Wennberg (2019, Fri Press, Sweden) 59 pages, 5" x 8.25". perfect softbound. ISBN 978-91-88765-21-5. www.fripress.se

Reviewed by Jay Friedenber

Reflections of a Gardener is a collection of fifty-two poems in English and Swedish by Teresa Wennberg. Teresa is an itinerant world traveler and artist. She has been writing for nearly a half century and experimenting with various forms of artistic expression. She was one of the founding members of the Swedish Haiku Society in 1999. This book is a collection of mostly nature themed works. In a: *gusty spring of wind/lightly touching my hair/loosens the flower*, we gently apprehend the shared connection between people and nature. This poem is especially nice because of the way it uses the wind to link the subject and object. The contrast of the high and the low is done very effectively in: *grey autumn morning/pewter and gold shimmering/down in the gutter*. Here the beauty and poignancy of the fall season are shown by a simple color and hence mood comparison. My favorite though is: *butterflies playing/no - white snowflakes dancing now/in my winter yard*. Other haiku have conveyed a shift in perception where one image is seen one way and then another, but this is the best I have ever seen it done. The transition between the two mental images is seamless and perfect. This is a solid collection of haiku based on interesting observation with some psychological and spiritual insight. A delightful read.

