Poetry Series

Helen Gaudin - poems -

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Helen Gaudin()

As a child, I remember sitting in the back yard with a lined A4 School Exercise book and pencil and telling my father I was going to be a writer when I grew up as I frantically scribbled down ideas that danced in my head. I remembered the all the stories I read and retold them to my younger sisters. Over the years I drifted away and then back to putting my thoughts into words. The dance between my imagination and the actual process of writing wax and waned as the demands of daily life pulled me in different directions. Over the last few years I have once again returned to laying down into the light the words that dance in my head.

A Cage Of Bones

The bones in my face press insistently outwards
Piercing through skin they expand like a cage
Forward and beyond they grow
Enclosing my aura in a projected bony facade
Like an ill fitting garment uncomfortable and too tight
My hands press against my face to bring the bones back
But pressure builds, pushing, pushing
Pain flickers darting backwards and forwards
From inside my head the bones seem to have a life of their own
Taking me out of this dimension.

A Hollow Reflection

Saints and Icons carry memory of worship
Stars of yesterday's grace
Given life through prayers and soft murmurs of wishes
Steadfast they reside in hallowed spaces
A promise of piety given place in heaven
Sanctified and held up to inspire and to youth aspire
Removed from the messy reality of the world
Life that was not as now told, gone in the blink of an eye
Only a hollow reflection of humanity remains.

Stars and Heroes created through the media
To generate adulation and worship
Given status to divert and distract and youth to aspire
Held up to high standards only to be pulled down
By the power that created, thus destroyed
A reminder that there is no sanctity in glorified heights
And heaven no longer awaits
Rewards are only monetary and public attention is fickle.

Saints and Icons, Stars and Heroes litter the archives
The required anguish of blood, sweat and tears
Forgotten in the captured moment of glory
A history momentarily remembered
As they show their Stigmata's, their wreaths and medals
All that remains of the promise is a hollow reflection
Generated through the imagination of the final observer.

A Little Death

Sleep Perchance to dream

Or, not

Sleep

To knit the ravelled sleeve of care Unconsciously

Sleep

A gift that takes away the world Softly

Sleep

A venture into the unknown Alone

Sleep

A pathless ravine, dark and deep Enclosing

Sleep

A little death practiced

Daily

A Passing Storm

Battered and blinded by the rain
Water sliding down my neck
Wet down to my skin
Shoulders hunched
Struggling against an adversary I couldn't overcome

I stopped
Raised my face to the storm
Closed my eyes
Let the water flow
The rain washed over me
I existed only inside the passing storm

I tasted my world
The sea, the wind, the sun, the snow
I knew soon, piece by piece, moment by moment
They too would become my whole world
As it was only a passing storm

Awakening: The Journey Continues

Darkness holds a soul defeated
Till fallen from the sky
The stone's magical light breaks the world
Seen, unseen all is one
Spirit awakened, soul transformed
The journey takes the seeker
Through the shadows in search of knowledge, guidance and self
The stone, shielding and protecting from within
The thread of life unwinds in it fullness

Become

In becoming who you are

Do not hide the fire in your soul under a mantle of smallness

You have been forever, eternal You are present in the now, being You will be in the far distant future, infinite

Your grace flows endlessly from one shared universal source You are a powerful natural force Grow strong in growing into yourself

Do not hide the fire in your soul Become who you are.

Bringing Grace Into The Day

Body waking to the bright morning Quiet mind, thoughts stilled From depths softness arises The taste of earth, rich, deep and secret Followed by a salty sweetness And a sense of timelessness Of traditions handed down Bursting across the tongue; flavour Of life lived in its fullness Mind and soul wreathed in gentle quietude Light flows through porcelain Infusing the tea in a golden glow Enfolded in fragrant steam The mind's eye sees high mountain plantations Glossy green leaves, quick hands Young tips plucked as they being to unfurl Tenderness in the leaf The delicate flavour floats softly Into mind body and soul Bringing grace into the day

Chasing The Moment

I am behind myself
Chasing the movement of the day
Moving but not achieving
As if the world beneath my feet
Is flowing backwards
For every step I take
I still do not reach this moment
Frustration and irritation arise
I have to stop, rewind and begin again

Child Of The Stars

Touching the edge of night□
My wings flamed in the dying sun
The world could no longer hold me
I sprang into the air
And soared into my birth.
I am a child of the stars.

Connections

From soft, misty shadows they emerge
At first just a shape, indistinct
Gaining form, coming closer
Heart leaps with recognition
Familiar likeness
Becoming more distinct the closer they come
Then you see the strange, the difference
It is other
It is not you, meeting yourself

Tentatively reaching out, lips curve upwards
Matched by responding upward curve
Eyes meet momentarily
Unspoken words fill the space between
Warmth flows
Passed by, drifting further away
Shape forming, new, lips curve
No match, strange, turn away, pass by
Cold fog fills the space between
Connection and disconnection
Finding and not finding myself in others

Dancing Light

Rain reflections in red, and white and green
Webs of light dancing across the grey
In flares and sparkles and flashes
Refracted in the water droplet on my glasses
Sudden flare of red burst in my vision
Coherent lines of white flow towards me
Twisted and turning green enters the dance
I drive home through curving ribbons of light

Do I Exist?

Sky melting down into the landscape Definition lost, edges undefined Sound muted into grey

Do I exist?

Or have I faded into the pallid light

Flaked out into ashes

Unresponsive

Do I exist?

Or have I become part of this achromatic world

Dispersed, blanched white, withered away

Soundless

Do I exist?

Or am I a ghost in the landscape

Encased in dreams

Blind to anything but shroud around me

Do I exist?

To any but myself.

Drenched Green

Green; dripping Grey; lowering Damp; rising

A world of drenched green

Sun; hidden Rain; constant Wind; intermittent

Summer, a distant prospect

Earth; foundations
Water; emotions
Air; thoughts
Fire's transformative energy lost

Balance unstable
Motivation low
Life force stagnant
Under the drenched green

Call on fire
Light the candle
Meditate on obsidian
Add chilli to chocolate
Elements of energy and transformation

Move beyond the drenched green

Earth Song

Our Mother sings an earth song
She sings into being the web of life
The sound of her song spirals down into our souls
Her music winds itself around each beating heart

In the sparkle of the sun on the sea; you will hear her
In the whisper of the wind in the trees; you will hear her
In the movement of the bones of the earth; you will hear her
In the fire's laughter; you will hear her
In the depth of the night; you will hear her

In your soul You hear her

And when you hear her; will you answer? Will you dive into the web of life and offer up your heart?

Fractals And Spirals

Fractals and spirals
Trap the eye and ensnare the mind
Taking us in and down
Descending
Following the internal DNA path
We travel the long journey
Down to our centre
Into the eternal space
The place between the stars

Haiku #31

Wretchedness and woe Unwelcomed disarray; lost In sleep's oblivion

Haiku #32

Winter garden sleeps Rising murmur far below Promise of new growth□

Haiku #33

Sun strike, eyes blinded Eastern journey bathed in light□ Darkness burnt away

Haiku 01/01/2017

Fire's crowning glory
Tree of life, circle keeper
Pohutakawa□

Haiku 01/07/2016

Icy southern wind Clouded mountain, snow mantled Winter 's grip flexes

Haiku 02/01/2017

Keeper of knowledge An ancient, transcending time Te Tuatara

Haiku 02/07/2016

Silence layered deep Fast feet touching lightly down Over ice edged grass

Haiku 03/01/2017

Gentle summer rain Flowers graced in diamond strands Soft water falling

Haiku 03/07/2016

The guesthouse empty Hours disappeared in darkness No guidance today

Haiku 04/01/2017

Wind born dreams are shared Floating in the endless blue Dandelion's drift \square

Haiku 04/07/2016

Sunlight on branches Feral faces peeking out It's only shadows

Haiku 05/01/2017

Illumination You have the power to choose Your centre expands

Haiku 05/07/2016

Eyes blind, fate unknown Scented visions, Oracle's Perception obscure

Haiku 06/01/2017

Outer world exists Mirage like; in my mind's eye Endless visionscape

Haiku 06/07/2016

Gentle rain on the roof The alarm ringing loudly Opposite callings

Haiku 07/01/2017

Lazy wakening Unplanned hours stretching out Weekends's blissful gift

Haiku 07/07/2016

Subconscious images Stories woven from the mind Dreams materialised

Haiku 08/01/2017

Blustery forecast
The sound of wind, a lost voice
Seasons inside out□

Haiku 08/07/2016

Black sky reflection Wind dancing wildly above Fish serenely float

Haiku 09/01/2017

Curiosity
Space full of hidden secrets
Wide eyed reflection

Haiku 09/07/2016

Silent tapestry
Torn asunder when disturbed
Embrace the soundscape

Haiku 10/01/2017

Out in the darkness Morepork's plaintive call resounds A shadowed night song□

Haiku 10/07/2016

Sinking deeply down Sleep drawing veils over mind Here, but not here

Haiku 11/01/2017

Deep contemplation
Beyond closed eyes timelessness
Aurora dreaming

Haiku 11/07/2016

Deep water below Sitting precariously Reaching for the stars

Haiku 12/01/2017

Empty eyes gaze out The mask discourages exchange Emotions hidden

Haiku 12/07/2016

Light on horizon Wheels on asphalt, rising sound Dawn's silence broken

Haiku 13/01/2017

Under drowsy heat Heavy eyelids drift downwards Summer somnolence

Haiku 13/07/2016

Frigid rain, whip lashed Drawing down night over day Darkness enshrouded

Haiku 14/01/2017

Silver coloured sky Fragile bodies, heat battered On the sun's anvil

Haiku 14/07/2016

Round pegs and square holes Fitting in impossible Changing shape daily

Haiku 15/01/2017

Ragged edges smoothed Heartbeat slows, mind unfolding The balm of quiet souls□

Haiku 15/07/2016

Spelled water flowing Circe Invidiosa Sings; Illusions spawned

Haiku 16/01/2017

Promise in the bud Blighted in harsh conditions Beautiful decay□

Haiku 16/07/2017

Spelled water flowing Circe Invidiosa Sings; Illusions spawned

Haiku 17/01/2017

Lying in the deeps Legendary Taniwha Keeper of shadows

Haiku 17/07/20106

Raining in the night Warmth inside, with lights glowing Winter held at bay

Haiku 18/01/2017

All deities treads
The dream space inside your mind
Guarding and guiding

Haiku 18/07/2016

Drifting in the blue Sunlight sparkles through the mind Winter's diamond days□

Haiku 19/01/2017

Enclosing darkness
Air shivers; chimes resonate
Night has its own grace□

Haiku 19/07/2016

Nubilous light falls Like a blade, wind's ice sharp kiss Caresses my face

Haiku 20/01/2017

Little known; we Strangers; reaching towards each Other's differences

Haiku 20/07/2016

Morpheus reaches out Suspended within the dream web; Inner eye opens

Haiku 21/01/2017

A crack in the dark Sleepy song heralds the day In dawn's early light

Haiku 21/07/2016

Mountain, sea bounded Life balanced and turbulent Between strength and flow

Haiku 22/01/2017

Elemental wind
Defending the damaged world
Arctic anger roars□

Haiku 22/07/2016

Weathervane rotates
To left, to right, spinning round
Indecisively

Haiku 23/01/2017

Flowing down the curve Sweet reward for day's labour Liquid caramel□

Haiku 23/07/2016

Water draws inward Wash of emotions flow out Released on ebb tide

Haiku 24/01/2017

In the quiet breath
Darkness wraps the mind gently
Peace flows to the heart

Haiku 24/07/2016

Rain loud on the roof Slowly sinking into sleep Cat's purr a comfort

Haiku 25/01/2017

Outside, ordinary Inside, flights of fancy reign Filling hidden depths

Haiku 25/07/2016

A floating dreamscape La Serenissima calls Venice is timeless

Haiku 26/01/2017

In a heart's winter Grasp the eternal promise That all season's turn

Haiku 26/07/2016

Seen, unseen; eyes drift There but still invisible Perception faulty

Haiku 27/01/2017

Breathe in then breath out Counterbalancing tension Sinking into self

Haiku 27/06/2016

Brain slides into fugue Counting off life in moments Inner grey fog state

Haiku 28/01/2017

Tenderly curled up Surrounded and protected Burgeoning new life

Haiku 28/07/2016

Out of the timeless Swampy green; blue feathers flash Pukeko strolls through

Haiku 29/01/2017

In to and out of Dimensional transcendence Your thoughts flow freely

Haiku 29/07/2016

Distant inner gaze Imaginations full flight Private worlds open

Haiku 30/07/2017

Wind plaintively calls Spirits dance within the flow As stories unfold

Holding Onto Summer

At the land's end the sea rolls up to the sky
Warm colours flow together
Like butterflies into heaven
Leading day joyously into night
I stand in the fading light
Tightly, holding onto this perfect day
The smells
The tastes
The joys
A breath, in drawn
Held for that long moment,
Focussed on absorbing every last sensation
Folding them carefully in my memories
So that this summer's day will never end.

I Am Hers

Into my mother's embrace I give myself
I match my heartbeat to her eternal rhythm
My breath sighs in and out to the ebb and flow of her tides
Through my veins flows life as the streams from mountains to sea
Unique, ever changing and everlasting
Expressing herself in movement through the myriad of creatures she has birthed
Creative, imaginative and compelling
She is life, I am hers□

Inward Focus

I joke that my ailments
Are all inside my head
I could cut off my head
Leave it behind and all would be well

Points of pain, points of pressure
Build in sparks and flashes
Across the bone scape
Eyes shut, I can paint my face
Coloured in pain's dimensions
To my own internal music
As a continuous ringing
Pulses in my inner ears

All my focus turns inwards
My inner world scape overwhelms
While in here I have nothing to give
That is beyond this space

Life; Dark And Light

Wings of darkness descending Spirit retreating inwards Body connection unsettled Pain, discomfort, melancholy Aura weighted down Disconnection

Mind, body and spirit
Cautiously finding balance
Memory markers reveal
Points of stability
Climbing back to place of balance
Reconnection
Wings of light ascending

Melting Landscapes

Strawberry clouds lay in folds upon the horizon
Lavender drifts folding down into bruised purple banks
Darkening moment by moment, sun overwhelmed by the brush of clouds
Crystal drops randomly hit the windscreen, changing shape and becoming fluid
My morning's journey through a surreal world of melting landscapes

I enter an enclosed space where I will spend hours

A place separate from enlivening and ever changing nature

A man made box sealed off from the chaos that is the world

Order, structure, time and rules are the byword of this artificial landscape

Beyond the window I momentarily see a sliver of the dark grey sky

Enclosed between harsh, straight lines of solid mass

And as I left this enclosed world and stepped through the door
The southern wind buffeted me with a hard body blow
I thought of the words of Kahlil Gibran " the wind delights to play with your hair"

I took off my hat and released my hair from its tie
The wind leapt forward and I was surrounded by a white cloud
Fingers of wind danced through my hair and twisted and curled
Elflocks were dropped onto my shoulders, then lifted up again
I looked at the world through stranded white and the wind still danced

As I entered my car the rain flung itself onto the windscreen like a jealous sibling The wind lost its playful nature, buffeting as it threw itself against the car's metal body

The sound of rain reverberated through the car Visibility reduced, the world refracted, chaos once again in dominance Enlivened nature gave me a journey home through a surreal melting landscapes

Mygraine

Light flickering around the edge Sight inwards Chaotic vision Pressure building Heaviness bearing down Dark overlay rising

Light shining on the underside Spiralling down Deep within Becoming lost Floating amongst stars Sparks lighting darkness

Inside everything expanding Dark, dark, light Heavy, heavy, tight Until released Disconnected Dropping into the dark

Quiet Space

Outside the busy world clatters, chatters and rattles on Sounds of vehicles rushing by

The constant electronic hum, just below hearing, felt in the bone
The minutiae of other lives seeping into you through waves of sound
Day in, day out, constant sound, always there always present, filling mind and
body to the brim.

Breathing consciously you create the pause between the layers of sound Quiet space, inside your head, expanding out

Your eye rests gently on a peaceful scene;

Breathe, space

Your hand curves over the warm, soft body of a companion;

Breathe, space

Drifting softly the scent enters you soul, memories expand;

Breathe, space

On your tongue, the taste of family, of love, of happiness in the bite taken; Breathe, space.

Inside, the quiet world, expands, flexes and absorbs and fills your soul to the brim

You move beyond the world's noise

You leave behind those other's lives

Breathe, space, quiet, no sound, always there within your reach, always present filling mind and body

Slip gently into your quiet space, your regenerating place.

So Many Smiles□

So many smiles begin with you□

The bridge that crosses distance

The light that bathes another's soul

The door that invites connection

Smile and you have the ability to overcome; time, gender, age and race

It is a sharing

It is a blessing

It is an invitation

A smile lifts weight, creates warmth, releases spirit

It is a gift beyond price that weaves grace and harmony into the fabric of the world

Share freely

So many smiles begin with you

Sorrow Shares My World

You lie in the dark
Quiet beneath the ground
Held in an earthly embrace
Insensate
Nothing touches your cold flesh
I stand looking at the enveloping earth
Saturated with sorrow

Wrapped in shadows of doubt
That life can still exists inside of me
My heart hardens
As if made of stone
I cannot see beyond this grief saturated moment
Sorrow darkens my soul

Matter from earth, matter back to earth
A connection that has never been abandoned
My grief has me yearning
My soul reaching out to join you
Under the weight of sorrow

Around me is the enigmatic, eternal, waiting silence
Like the sphinx blindly staring across the desert, unknowable
For a moment I see through the eyes of the dead
To eternity
Reluctant acceptance slowly rises
Through the curdled emotions that push against the edges of my skin I endure the ache of sorrow

Within me rises the deep understanding that it is not my time
The living world is still waiting within my reach
I still have to withstand all the midnight hours
To survive the dark before the dawn
Now that Death has cut the ties
And sorrow shares my world

Sorrow's Thorn In The Faded Memories

The barbed wound in the softness of melancholy Yearning for a life long gone

Beauty decayed No longer shining bright Memory betrayed

Hope, lost in the hidden recesses' of the mind The sharp pain, knowing for a moment you cannot remember Sliding back, into the blurring colour of the faded memories

Sorrow's thorn

Spring Showers

Misty rain

Gently soaking
Colours blurred
Light nubilous
Soft focused
Edges indistinct
Melting down

Life burgeoning Breaking open New growth Hazy green Flower faces Rain speckled Rising up

Sunlight breaks
Cloud cover
Growth rises
Season's promise
Blossoming forth
Life's exuberance
Offered freely

Storm Riders

The 4.30 dark under stormy skies
The cold slap of rain
The push and shove of wind
Storm riders flowing through the streets

Sharp spike of lightning
The flash of light in the storm
A bite of cold against exposed fingers
Storm riders sky born rumbling thunder

The watery shine of the car lights
Flowing forward
Reflexes need to be quick
As Storm riders draw darkness over the world

Taken Home

Where feathers fall angels tread
Down mountains,
Through fog and silence
Arrow pierced the fragile skin
Circle broken
Luminous moon shone
Down into dark canyons
Wounded souls
Gathered up and taken home

Te Maunga And Te Moana

My brother the mountain My brother the guardian My brother, watches over me

My sister the sea
My sister the guide
My sister, brings the world to me

His strength; holds me up
Her fluid nature; engages my mind
His strength; lets me go forth
Her ebbing tides; releases my spirit
His strength; protects me
Her abundant energy; liberates me
Te Maunga is the mountain, Te Moana is the sea

Tea, Simply Complex

A slow and gentle awakening
As fragrant steam softy rises
Gently touching my face
In amber liquid endless reflections
Dreaming into the day
The first sip a benediction
Flavours burst across my tongue
Of long ago and far away
A world bounded by the china rim

The Bone Dance

Quick flicks of fire
Smudged shadows of pressure
Cursive lines cracking open
Arches limned in fiery light
Light, light, dark

Shape defined in the mind Coloured in dull burning red Blue shadowed dark silhouettes Fired into infinity in fading sparks Dark, dark, light

Bones clothed in skin
Wanting to feel the light
Dance upon osseous fibre
Gleaming whitely in the dark
Light, dark, light

Swallowing the receding sparks
Turning inside out
Change the focus outward
Draw the lines in the air
Light, Light,

The Bone Landscape□

Bone pressured as in a vice
Pushing forward defining shape
Sculptured in pain
Lines of fire arching outwards
Burning hollows falling deep
Every bone screams
A topography of pain
The outer world lost
Focus turns inwards
Tracing each line
Measuring each point
In a bone white landscape
Under muscle and skin

The Circle

The brazen sun beat down in waves, Slow and deep and heavy The weight of sunlight pressed.

The graceful trees uplifted branches, Lithe and high and light The kiss of shadows whispered.

The sparkling ocean danced, Quick and bright and cool The pull of water renewed.

The enigmatic earth supported, Strong and deep and calm The energy of earth restored

Fire, air, water earth
Within and without
We are the circle of elements

The Scintillation

Scintillation dancing
On the edge of vision
Brilliantine curling
Swirling in twisting motion
A dance of light on light
Enticing the eye to turn

Vision caught in pulsation Focus into the centre Reject the light fantastic A faceted trap That frames the world In endless motion

Responsible reaction
Ignoring the dance
That bathes the world
In diamond lights
But, oh, I wish
I could give in
To the scintillation

The Sound Of Silence

Silence makes the loudest sound
It presses heavily on my eardrum
Inside and out
A soundless barrier echoes
Confining my mind

The sound of silence sinks deeply
To weigh upon my spirit
Bearing it down
Like the weight of a thousand raindrops
On the head of a flower

Somewhere in the silence
I float between body and mind
Reaching for a connection
To break the resounding silence
And re-enter the physical world

The Stories We Tell

Pale light A luminous face Blanched ghost-like Gazing blankly Unseeing Vision tunneling In and down Through mind's ravines Turning over memories Pulling apart stories Finding the myths Seeking that which defines That shapes the everyday Listening to the echo Of words that vibrate That flow out in waves To the edge of your skin Picking up loose treads Weaving pieces together Kaleidoscope fragments Moments that rise Like bubbles in yeast Patchwork of life Piled up one on the other Piece by piece No life is lived From end to end It is only refined In the stories we tell When the gaze refocuses Returned To the everyday world

The Truth Story

Truth

Constructed through assumption and little information
The could be, would be, should be, definition
The he said, she said, repetition
Of second hand, third hand, talking heads opinion
Passed on as gospel

Truth

Defined in word bites and pieces
Floating like algae in a pond, fostering murky perception
Accumulating weight with every word shared
Growing larger, conversation by conversation
Wantonly spreading far and wide

Truth

In " The News" truth is only ever an illation Woven, from within countless opinions
Filtered through fractured prisms
Only showing a partial conclusion
To forge the response required from the audience

Truth

Is only a story within which we participate Through the sharing of opinion.

The Weight Of Silence

Can a scientist measure the weight of silence?

I sit in the silence and feel the weight pressing down
Inside my head a soundless voice crying out
Needing to break the barrier that surrounds the space
Silence full of pent up emotion
So smoothly impermeable and densely compacted

How many kilograms of silence weigh upon a metre of space?

Every centimetre of skin is alive to the pressure silence brings to bear All sound is crushed under the weight No word is spoken But we all know

Silence creates the loudest statement

The Wolves Of Grief

The wolves of grief have taken my heart
A child gone before her time
The cold moon ignores the pleas
Of a soul shrouded in agony
Sorrow takes all light
As I fall down, down, down
Into the tunnel of despair

Turning Into Silence......

Falling like a stone into the depths of my self Silence become a presence
My eyes cry out the words I cannot say
They all fade away into the silence
Deep inside I howl, I scream, I cry
But nothing passes my lips
Only silence speaks
In the language of stone

Water Call

A thick blanket of grey
Drawn down as streams of water
Wrapping around in a clammy embrace
Weighting down on all it touches
An opaque misty world
Through the stream, colour diffused
Visibility restricted, encased in a tunneled vista
Opening and closing, before and behind
Soft focussed, edges fading away
Dampness creeps into all the tiny spaces
Like little fingers drifting across skin
Calling to the water inside

Within The Curve

Soft flow
Gentle motion
The eye faithfully follows the curve
Mind quiets
Centered
Stillness and peace flow out

Young Love

Young love swiftly flown
Looked back upon with sweet delight
The memory of a love so full
The inconceivable idea that we would part
Our world wrapped around each other
Forever friends, our life would always be together
But time and world moved and changed
You went away, and day by day my world turned
Challenges arose and life was lived
And you went from my mind and from my heart
A busy life, a full life, new loves, new lives, new joys
Life was lived

As age increased, challenges lessened, time slowed and allowed for reflection One day, a name in the newspaper

From the depths of mind and heart a memory arose of a young love swiftly flown.