

# Chairs Askew

*Michael Dylan Welch*

warm winter evening—  
the chairs askew  
after the poetry reading

breakfast alone  
slowly I eat  
my melancholy

These poems have previously appeared in the following journals and books: *Brussels Sprout*, *Fresh Hot Bread*, *Frogpond*, *Haikukai* (Japan), *Heron*, *The Heron's Nest*, *Haiku Light* (online), *Haiku Pathway Katikati*, *Mariposa*, *Migrating Mist: 2003 Members' Anthology* (San Jose, California: Yuki Teikei Haiku Society, 2003), *Modern Haiku*, *The New Pond: An English-Language Haiku Anthology* (Tokyo: Hokumei, 2002), *Persimmon*, *Snapshots* (England), and *Where Sky Meets Sky: Haiku Splash Anthology* (Toronto: Imago Press, 1999). The poem "beneath the moon" has been chiseled onto a large boulder as part of the Katikati Haiku Pathway Project in Katikati, New Zealand. In addition, "tall weeds" won an honorable mention in the 1996 Haiku Splash Contest, "tourists talking" won an honorable mention in the 2003 Haiku Poets of Northern California senryu contest, and "warm winter evening" won an honorable mention in the 2003 *Mainichi Daily News* haiku contest. I am grateful to those who have published and acknowledged these poems.

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tourists talking  
in several languages—  
the glassblower exhales

tall weeds—  
the upturned boat  
shedding rain

the siren stops  
at the draped body—  
hopscotch markings

spring breeze—  
the oars fed  
into the oarlocks

tripod holes  
in the creekside mud—  
Yosemite dawn

beneath the moon  
the heron's slow step  
towards frog-sound

summer vacation—  
our rhubarb stalks  
tipped with sugar

bookmobile day—  
huckleberries bloom  
along the white picket fence

second trimester    we name our cars

autumn morning—  
old neighbours  
trimming the hedge

frosted windows—  
my weight  
still on the gym scale

we walk the boardwalk hand in hand  
sharing ice-cream  
headaches

winter rain—  
the bulb burns out  
in my bedside lamp

starry starry night—  
unfinished art school paintings  
in the dumpster