

NOON 2

ALSO BY PHILIP ROWLAND

*together / still* (Hub Editions, 2004)

*where rungs were* (Noon Press, 2007)

*someone one once ran away with* (Longhouse, 2009)

*before music* (Red Moon Press, 2012)

*Something Other Than Other* (Isobar Press, 2016)

*An Open Parenthesis* (Isobar Press, 2022)

AS EDITOR

*Haiku in English: The First Hundred Years* (Norton, 2013)

(with Jim Kacian & Allan Burns)

NOON: *An Anthology of Short Poems* (Isobar Press, 2019)

# NOON

*An Anthology of Short Poems*

*(Volume 2)*

EDITED BY

Philip Rowland

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## PREFACE

Volume 1 of this anthology, published in 2019, presented a selection of poems from Issues 1–13 of NOON: *journal of the short poem*. This second volume draws on Issues 14–27, published online between 2019 and 2025. It puts another sample of the journal into the more tangible – and perhaps lasting – medium of print.

As in every issue, as well as the first anthology, the poems in this volume have been arranged in a renga-like sequence. Besides being a creative aspect of the editorial process, this is meant to allow for a range of short-form poetry to resonate in stimulating and sometimes surprising ways for the reader.

NOON has always been oriented towards haiku, integrated with longer – if, still, notably short – poems (generally speaking, of fewer than fourteen lines). The aim is to provide a perspective in which the poems appear in unexpected (but also meaningful) juxtapositions, relatively free of genre labels and the preconceptions often attached to them. Similarly, authors' names and biographies have not been foregrounded. It is hoped that this style of presentation may open contributors' work to fresh appreciation by a wider audience.

This is, then, much more an anthology of poems than poets. I have not attempted to present all the 'best' poems from recent issues, which would have meant including many more contributors, with some represented much more substantially. Instead, this volume has been assembled as a special, retrospective issue, short enough to be read from start to finish at one sitting, or much as one would read a collection by a single – in this case, collective – author.

At the same time, many of the poems are by longtime contributors: about half of the poets here were also included in volume 1. My thanks to all, but especially to Paul Rossiter, for his invaluable help in finalizing the selections, and John Levy, for sharing his responses to many of the poems published in the journal over the years.

Philip Rowland

Tokyo, September 2025



NOON 2



WALL

*for John Phillips*

Here is a wall. No way around,  
or over, or through. There are words  
on the other side.  
The words on this side say so.

death

mostly I take  
your word for it

#### A JELLYFISH

A jellyfish on the beach, furred with sand  
then licked clean, nudged by the sea  
as a doe nudges its stillborn fawn, steps away  
and returns to nudge it once more.

Deep amber –

the sun's blood diffused within,

an embryo's ghost in a transparent womb.

asleep in my arms  
the part of the ocean  
that slips through the net

*Peter Yovu*

the ocean down my street rising sunset

weathered fence  
I kneel  
to a new knothole

every fiber of my spider lightning

*Chuck Brickley*

laughter: paper  
dancing as it burns

Eating beans  
out of the pot

socks hung to dry  
from the curtain rods  
like roosting bats

playing the lute late  
in bed with the cat

waking with absence  
held in my arms

*Robert MacLean*