

Solitude

Solid-tude:
Sitting still,
Breathing in,
Breathing out,
Enraptured glow.

A lone zinnia in a vase.

Zinnias bought from a farmer with strawed teeth
in overalls
standing next to pickup truck
At Farmer's Market
of basil: shouting green on a table of red, red tomatoes;
mounds of string beans, peaches, apriums, and purple
potatoes.

At home: dicing and stir-frying zucchini, eggplants in
Korean sauce
sparkled with Mediterranean basil,
served on a dining room table for family and
a friend who had given me plastic bag of cumin and
a recipe for East Indian lentil curry,

Connected like brussel sprouts on a stalk of being.

Chae Sungsook

February

Wild rose shoots push out
over drooping, yellowed stalks.
Blackcaps dart through the thicket
peeping in the sun.
Seagulls wheel and squawk
with more vigor than the hunt
for food demands
while the swan begins her nest
far too near the road.
Only the crocus in her bulbous wisdom
waits beneath the ground
here in hibernal New England.

Mark Bauer

Winter

Sounds
travel far in the crisp, freezing air.

Invisible breath
becomes visible.

Darkness
quickly conquers light.
Quiet follows.

Michael Zinke

The Spirit of Florida Zen

1.

Raindrops of shifting signifiers
Wash the path clear of pine needles
A red maple leaf kisses the windshield
A camelia floats in Yoda's green bowl

2.

Why hide in the mountains or pretend to like snow?
Does anyone ever see that red-crested crane in the pine?
Where plastic flamingos grace many a lawn
It's zen without winter . . . unholy? or just wrong?

3.

Atlantic waves ride best in a hurricane
. . . Wet cushion sets and mantras . . .
Surf-riders and maniacs paddle out from the beach
Surfing's a source that can slam you with Now

4.

When cold water flows in autumn streams
wild grey geese fly honking south
Where the sluggish Econlockhatchee River meanders
And leathery old alligators feast on . . . KATZ!
Florida Zen

5.

Adding frost to snow
Replenishing sand on the beach
Watering the lawn during a tropical storm
Just open the blinds and watch them fall

Chong Do