

Kala Ramesh is one of the best haiku and tanka poets to come out of India onto the world stage in the last decade. She's a leader in these genres, a formidable and much-loved artist.

-Michael McClintock

President, Tanka Society of America (2004-2010)

June 5, 2013

Highlights:

A poet and editor, **Kala Ramesh** writes and teaches haiku, tanka, haibun and renku to children, undergrads and senior citizens. *An external faculty member of the Symbiosis International University Pune* since 2012, she teaches Japanese short forms of poetry to undergrads — *a first in her country*.

Passionate about taking haiku to everyday spaces, Kala initiated the ‘**HaikuWALL India**’ project, which has graffiti artists paint haiku on city walls. Starting in 2006, she has organised five haiku festivals in India so far. Her love for haiku and her many initiatives culminated in the formation of ‘**IN Haiku**’ in 2013 — bringing Indian haiku poets under one umbrella to promote, enjoy, and sink deeper into the beauty and intricacies of haiku and allied Japanese short forms of poetry.

In collaboration with artists, musicians, and dancers, Kala has given several readings in public places. Kala created the ‘Rasika’ form, an eight-verse renku (collaborative linked verses) fashioned after Matsuo Basho’s non-thematic style.

Interviews, newspapers and online coverage:

Jane Reichhold interviews Kala Ramesh

<http://haikureality.theartofhaiku.com/esejeng150.htm>

Living Haiku Anthology: <https://livinghaikuanthology.com/poets-on-haiku/interviews/5799-jane-reichhold%E2%80%99s-interview-with-kala-ramesh.html>

This interview was published in DNA Mumbai edition on Monday 26 February, 2018.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-adding-some-japanese-flavour-to-bookaroo-fest-2588524>

The Indian Express, Chennai 4 January 2018, by Abinaya Kalyanasundaram.

<http://epaper.newindianexpress.com/c/25090134>

Dina Thandi English (DTNEXT) on 9th January 2018 by Nishadh Mohammad

<http://www.dtnext.in/Lifestyle/Culture/2018/01/08225154/1057966/Haiku-where-silences-speak-louder-than-words.vpf?TID=112139>

The Hindu, Chennai 10 January 2018 by Preeti Zachariah

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-miscellaneous/tp-others/all-things-sparse-and-beautiful/article22409329.ece>

THE WEEK – A Weekend Special - on 19 January 2018 by Sujitha Jothi

<http://www.theweek.in/features/society/a-poem-in-thirds-the-moderated-power-of-words.html>

The Times of India - Pune Mirror on 10 December 2017 by Lalitha Suhasini

<http://punemirror.indiatimes.com/others/sunday-read/a-sense-of-oneness/articleshow/61896832.cms>

A post on wabi-sabi in the Home and Garden NJ that includes some of Kala's quotes.

<http://www.homeandgardennj.com/main/article.html?ID=2839>

First Prize Winner at the *Golden Triangle Haiku Contest* 2016, USA.

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/verelyn-gibbs-watson/golden-triangle-winning-w_b_9585388.html

Haiku Chronicles Podcasts presents Kala Ramesh's film on HaikuWALL India:

<https://www.haikuchronicles.com/podcasts/e31-haikuwall-india>

An interview on *Tanka Online* from January to July 2010,

<http://www.tankaonline.com/Interview%20Ramesh.htm>.

Featured in *Mann Library Haiku Daily* in April, 2011.

<http://haiku.mannlib.cornell.edu/category/author/kala-ramesh/>

Featured Haiku Poet: *Simply Haiku* (November 2009),

<http://simplyhaiku.com/SHv7n4/haiku/feature.html>.

Please note: Copy paste the links, if they do not open.

Editorial:

Kala is Editor at *Under the Basho* (USA); Editor of the Youth Corner, *Cattails* (USA); Ex-poetry Editor of *Katha.org* (Delhi); Editor of *Haiku and Short Verses*, Muse India (Hyderabad); Deputy Editor-in-Chief, *World Haiku Review* (UK) and serves on the editorial team of *Living Haiku Anthology* and *Living Senryu Anthology* (USA). Was on the editorial board—*Take Five: The Best Contemporary Tanka* 2009, 2010 and 2011. Ex-haibun Editor of *Simply Haiku* 2010.

Kala Ramesh's work comprising of haiku, senryu, tanka, kyoka, haibun, tanka prose and renku, are published in reputed journals and anthologies, both online and print

editions in Japan, Europe, United Kingdom, Australia, United States of America and India.

Naad Anunaad: an Anthology of Contemporary World Haiku, edited by Kala Ramesh, et al, won the 1st prize at the Haiku Society of America's Merit Book Awards:

http://www.hsa-haiku.org/meritbookawards/merit-book_archive.htm

Kala has been instrumental in bringing Indian school kids and college youth into haiku and allied Japanese short forms of poetry. It can be viewed at:

<https://www.haikuchronicles.com/podcasts/e31-haikuwall-india>

Copy paste if the link doesn't open.

Kala is also the originator of the shortest 8 verse renku, 'Rasika', which can be viewed at: <http://ahundredgourds.com/ahg42/renku02.html>

Kala's Snapshot Press eChapbook winner 'the unseen arc' is up!

The link: http://www.snapshotpress.co.uk/ebooks/the_unseen_arc.pdf

- ❖ Kala has had the rare honour of being asked by The British Haiku Society to lend her essays on how to haiku, called '*the heart of a haiku*' for their website. <http://britishhaikusociety.org.uk/teaching-haiku/the-heart-of-a-haiku/> A series of 9 essays covering most of the aesthetic tools that is used when writing a haiku.

Kala is perhaps the only haiku poet in the country who has been collaborating with other performance artists to create a new poetic expression.

<http://punemirror.indiatimes.com/others/sunday-read/a-season-for-haiku/articleshow/57224651.cms>

Books, Anthologies and Articles

- *On the cards: Wishbone Moon, A Women's Haiku Anthology*, soon to be published by Jacar Press, USA. Editors: Roberta Beary, Ellen Compton and Kala Ramesh.
- *beyond the horizon beyond* – an exclusive collection of 283 haiku and 41 haibun (haiku embedded prose) and published by Vishwakarma Publications, August 2017 .

- *Haiku and My Haiku Moments: an Activity Book* by Kala Ramesh - published by Katha, New Delhi, 2010 December. Reprint, December 2017.
- *the unseen arc*, Kala's tanka collection, winner of the Snapshot Press eChapbook Award, UK, June 2017.
- *one-line twos*, in collaboration with Marlene Mountain, an ebook published by Bones, Denmark 2016.
- *Naad Anunaad: an Anthology of Contemporary World Haiku*, Editor-in-Chief. Published in 2016 by Vishwakarma Publications. Awarded *The Best Anthology by the Haiku Society of America Merit Book Awards 2017*.
- *FIRST Katha Ebook of Haiku, Haibun, Senryu and Tanka* published by Katha, Editor, Kala Ramesh et al. 2013.
- Joint Editor of *Take Five: Best Contemporary Tanka* 2008, 2009 and 2010 Anthology.
- Anthology credits include: *Haiku 21*, *Haiku 2014: an anthology of contemporary English-language haiku* (Modern Haiku Press, 2012) and *Haiku in English - the First Hundred Years* (W.W. Norton 2013).
- Haiku in India - a Feature in *A Hundred Gourds*, USA- 1st June 2013 The link: <http://www.ahundredgourds.com/ahg23/feature01.html>
- Kala's teaching methods in an essay at the Grassroots Outreach for Japanese association for Language Teaching (JALT) at: <http://jalt-publications.org/tlt/departments/grassroots-outreach/articles/3863-how-indian-youth-learn-dabble-haiku>
- Essay on Silences as seen in Indian Aesthetics in Under the Basho. <http://underthebasho.com/2015-issue/features/1488-silences-as-seen-in-indian-aesthetics.html>
- **The links to Youth Haiku:** Cattails links all under construction except the last one is live.
- Interview on Children's haiku: <http://www.robynhoodblack.com/blog.htm?post=997737>
- Cattails YOUTH CONER : Oct 2017 issue: <http://www.cattailsjournal.com/currentissue.html>

- Wednesday Haiku link – [Yesha Shah & Sneha Mojumdar: Wednesday Haiku, #205.](#)
- Mann Daily Haiku –Cornell University :
<https://haiku.mannlib.cornell.edu/category/author/kala-ramesh-students/>
- Failed Haiku: March 2018 issue is out!
Link: <http://www.haikuhut.com/FailedHaikuIssue27.pdf>
This issue has 19 senryu written by my students.

Awards

- *Readers' Choice Poem of the Year Award* and First runner-up, *The Heron's Nest Readers' Choice Poet of the Year Award* - The Heron's Nest - Volume VIII, 2006. USA
- Winner of the *Snapshot Press Haiku Calendar Contest, UK* – 2009 with 3 of her haiku chosen as winners and 4th as a runner-up.
- First Prize at the *Akita International Haiku Award*, Japan. September 2013. You can see the results at the website below. <http://akitahaiku.com/2013/09/14/>
- *Genjuan International Haibun Contest 2012*, Japan. An (Cottage) Prize for the haibun: *The Blue Jacaranda*
- *Haiku*, along with *My Haiku Moments: An Activity Book for Young Haiku Lovers*, published by Katha, was awarded the Honourable Mention for Best Book for Children in The Haiku Society of America - Merit Book Awards for 2011
- *the unseen arc*, Kala's tanka collection awarded the Snapshot Press eChapbook Award, 2012 (UK), published in June 2017.
Link: http://www.snapshotpress.co.uk/ebooks/the_unseen_arc.pdf
- *TATA LitLive Festival*, Mumbai, October 2014– 3rd prize in the Haiku Contest.
- In February 2016, Kala's haiku won first place (\$ 500 as gift) out of more than 900 haiku submissions at the *Golden Triangle Business Improvement District*, who convened a panel of experts to judge their Golden Haiku public art contest. Two more of Kala's poems were selected for the Runners Up category. All these 3 haiku were displayed in flower beds around the streets of Washington DC during the month of March 2016.

- ***Naad Anunaad: an Anthology of Contemporary World Haiku*** 2016, won the first prize for the Best Anthology 2017 at the Haiku Society of America Merit Book Awards.
- ***'beyond the horizon beyond'*** – a book of 283 haiku and 41 haibun culled from 11 years of Kala's published works. This book has been launched in *Haiku North America Conference* (Sep 2017) at Santa Fe, *Japan Foundation Delhi* (Dec 2017), *Prakriti Foundation Chennai* (January 2018), *Poets of Pondicherry at Kalarigram Auroville* (Jan 2018), *Gyaan Adab Pune* (Jan 2017), *Lamakaan and Our Sacred Spaces Hyderabad* (Feb 2018). Title Waves Bandra – leading bookstore in Mumbai on 17th March 2018. Shut Up and Read's two-day Lit Fest on 24 & 25 March.

Kala Ramesh's haiku workshops and readings of her work in Literary Festivals:

- *Hyderabad Literary Festival* – 2008, 2010 & 2013.
- *Prakriti Poetry Festival Chennai*– 2010 December.
- *Pune Biennale* – February 2013, & February 2015 and 2017
- *Pune International Literary Festival (PILF)* September 2013 and in September 2015, with an Australian poet Kathryn Hummel in “Crossing Poetic Genres” and also in September 2016.
- *Bookaroo Children's Literary Festival* – Oct 2012 in Delhi, May 2013 in Kashmir, Oct 2013 in Pune, Oct 2014 in Pune, Dec 2015 in Goa and Feb 2018 in Mumbai .
- *Katha Utsav, a Katha & CBSE Creative Writers Initiative* – Dec 2012, Dec 2013, Dec 2014, Dec 2015 in Bangalore, Delhi in Oct 2016 and Dec 2017.
- *Gyaan Adab, Malbar Festival*, on 18 July, 2015.
- *Haiku North America 2015 Conference* at Albany, NY on 15th Oct 2015,
- *British Haiku Society's Winter Gathering* at the Conway Hall in London on Saturday 14th November, 2015.

- *Pune International Literary Festival 2016*. Conducted a 2-hour haiku workshop and had a session called Poetry – from Heart to heart with Priya Sarukkai.
- *Film and Television Institute of India* – A workshop for students on Haiku and Haibun on 10th September, 2016.
- Conducted a 120 plus haiku, tanka and haibun workshops for school children, undergrads and senior citizens.
- As Editor-in-Chief of *Naad Anunaad: an Anthology of Contemporary World Haiku*, Kala is fortunate to have this world anthology launched at *Jaipur Literary Festival 2017* on 20th of January. At Jaipur Literary Festival 2017: [#JLF2017: Book Launch: Naad Anunaad: Haiku Anthology](#) | This anthology won the 1st prize at the Haiku Society of America's Merit Book Awards for 2017!
- *Pune Biennale & The British Council* - Kala's 90-minute reading on 22nd January 2017.
- *Haiku North America Conference* at Santa Fe – a 50-minute presentation with a Bharatanatyam dancer Preethi Ramprasad on 16th Sep, 2017.
- *Haiku North America Conference 2017* at Santa Fe this September – Book Launch of '*beyond the horizon beyond*' haiku and haibun by Kala Ramesh.
- *British Haiku Society Meet Oct 2017* to 'Introduce Kala's book – '*beyond the horizon beyond*'