From Issue 1: Daniela Misso

From Issue 1: Kinetic

We've chosen to discuss Daniela Misso's gorgeous one-line haiku from Issue 1. While this poem

employs technical tools we could discuss, to start quite simply, we are going to focus on what makes

this work as a single line versus a multiple-line poem.

clouds slide away on the lake swans

- Daniela Misso

These seven words are slippery and yield at least as many related readings depending on where the

breath pauses while reading it. Are the clouds sliding away? Are we? Are the swans on the lake or do we

notice them nearby?

Some afternoons feel like this: a lazy drift while white clouds merge into white feathers. The poem is, in

part, about this peaceful experience of floating with the lake and everything else. It's a feeling of

wholeness in which the place where one thing ends and another begins no longer feels so important.

The poem's single-line format is integral to conveying this experience to the reader.

If the poem were broken into two, three, four or more lines, one of the images would dominate while

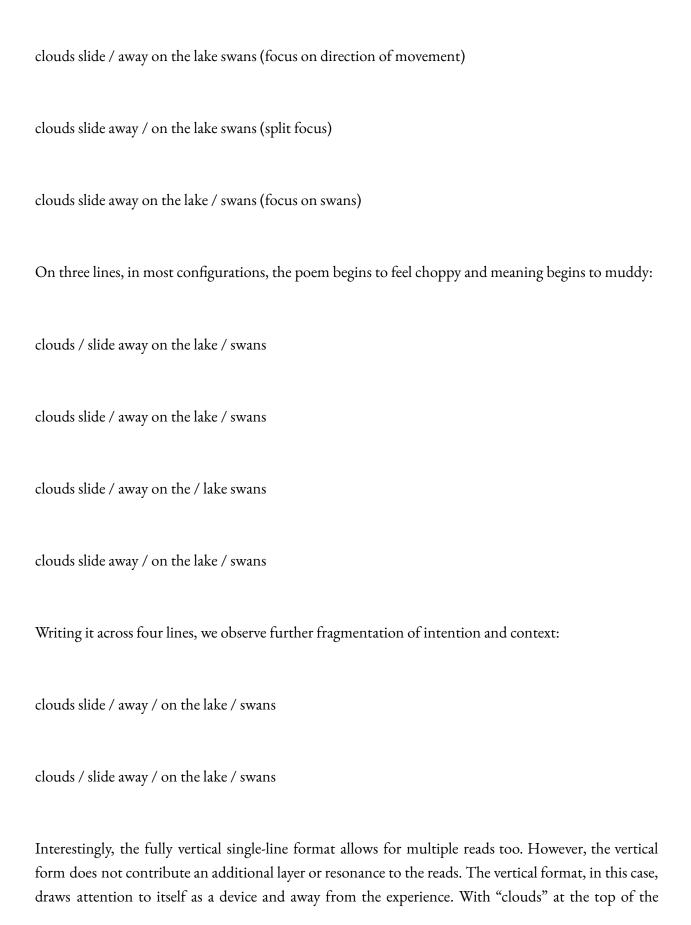
other images would be left behind. Any of the below duostich, tercets, or quatrains locks in a more

linear and limited meaning and lessens the experience in which clouds and swans inter-are as we slide

the lake together.

Here is the poem written in two lines:

clouds / slide away on the lake swans (focus on cloud movement)



vertical poem (y axis), we are focused more on the clouds being above us instead of the horizontal linear movement of the clouds/swans on the water (x axis) as is the observation in the poem. The vertical version, therefore, doesn't draw the reader in, and along the lake to share this experience. The reader is instead focused on trying to orient themselves to the imagery in the poem, leaving them to miss out on this magical moment.

clouds slide away on the lake swans

clouds

slide

away

on

the

lake

swans

Thanks for taking the time to read our thoughts! We hope perhaps it has answered questions or stimulated ideas for some new to one-line haiku. We'll be back after the next issue with more!

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