



## 団体部門 最優秀賞

Theme: Autumn

fallen leaves make My way  
in the Sky  
stars form milky way

Autumn's sign  
a breeze carries  
The scent of Osmanthus

Red, Orange, Yellow  
a carpet of autumn colors  
animals digging a hole

<Botsford 先生による講評>

The autumn theme struck in these three haiku is approached from three different points of view. The first haiku gestures from the fallen leaves of the trees to the Milky Way, a nice leap from the ground to the sky and beyond, as the speaker is seen moving across a (vague) landscape. The second haiku in this group conjures the sign we may know autumn by, in this instance the ‘scent of Osmanthus’ which ‘a breeze carries.’ The poet names the specific, small tree—known in Japan as the ‘city tree’ or ‘town tree’ (‘mokusei’ in Japanese--I had to look it up!)—which grows deliciously fragrant flowers. The ‘sign,’ the ‘breeze’ and the ‘scent’ all nicely merge in the choice of the three-syllable Latinate word that ends the poem. The third haiku begins with a burst of three specific colors, situated as a ‘carpet’ on the ground. But what really is surprising here is the shift of focus to the underground in the third line. The living energy of the animal—would that it had been a specific, named animal (there are many options)—brings the haiku to a dynamic and organic conclusion. From the first haiku to the last, we have journeyed in a few lines from the starlit sky to the scented breeze to the leaf-carpeted ground and the unseen earth beneath it.