

my hands full of light haiku by Gideon Young (Backbone Press, Durham, NC: 2021). 20 pages, 7" x 5". Glossy covers, perfect softbound. ISBN 978-1-7363467-1-6. \$10 from backbonepress.org.

This first collection by the North Carolina poet Gideon Young centers on the poetry of fatherhood. The haiku run from the birth of his daughter to the birth of a son. Family is a recurring theme, accounting for nearly a third of the 34 poems, though most of the poems cannot be categorized as senryu. The best come when nature interrupts or accentuates parenting: (1) *low thunder / our newborn asleep / on my chest*; (2) *26 weeks / smooth belly / in the sun*; and (3) *nose tickles / from a sprig of mint / in my daughter's hand*. Social justice is a minor theme: *summer sunset / silent fists / fill the sky*. Several nature-centered haiku are notable: (1) *valley fog / v of geese / gold in last light* and (2) *garden dirt crumbles / between my fingers / the sound of wind*. Congratulations are in order for the poetry and the growing family: *father of two / my hands full / of light*.