



18+

p o e m s | v o l u m e I I

**cyrilioutsen**  
**CRAQUELURES**

photographs by anna lenina

**cyril ioutsen**  
**craquelures. poems, volume II**

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**Аннотация**

A collection of short poems in the style of modern haiku and senryu. Volume II reflects upon abstract issues and human affairs.

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Конец ознакомительного фрагмента.

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# craquelures poems, volume II

**cyril ioutsen**

*they  
ask  
why  
haiku  
I say  
why  
not  
there  
has  
always  
been  
spring*

*Photograph* anna lenina

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**I**





# **“after the concert...”**

after the concert  
a symphony  
of ringtones

# **“after the music...”**

after the music  
silence is still  
catching up

**“always cheerful...”**

always cheerful  
bank manager  
another loan

**“another death...”**

another death  
a dried flower  
on a grave

**“another year...”**

another year  
they call it  
new

# “art & craft...”

art & craft  
the line  
in a poem  
gets fixed

“ **ashes...**”

ashes  
to the wind  
to be  
everywhere

**“at the end...”**

at the end

at peace

at last

**“at the start...”**

at the start

sorrow

at the end

regret

floating world



**“at a station...”**

at a station  
a lone train  
– yet full

**“autumn...”**

autumn

things

that come

to mind

# **“back from...”**

back from  
the burnt  
the ashes

“ **between...**”

between  
then and now  
always

# **“between trains...”**

between trains  
neither has  
arrived yet

# **“birthday...”**

birthday  
present  
in email

**“blackout...”**

blackout  
    only  
sounds

**“bookstore...”**

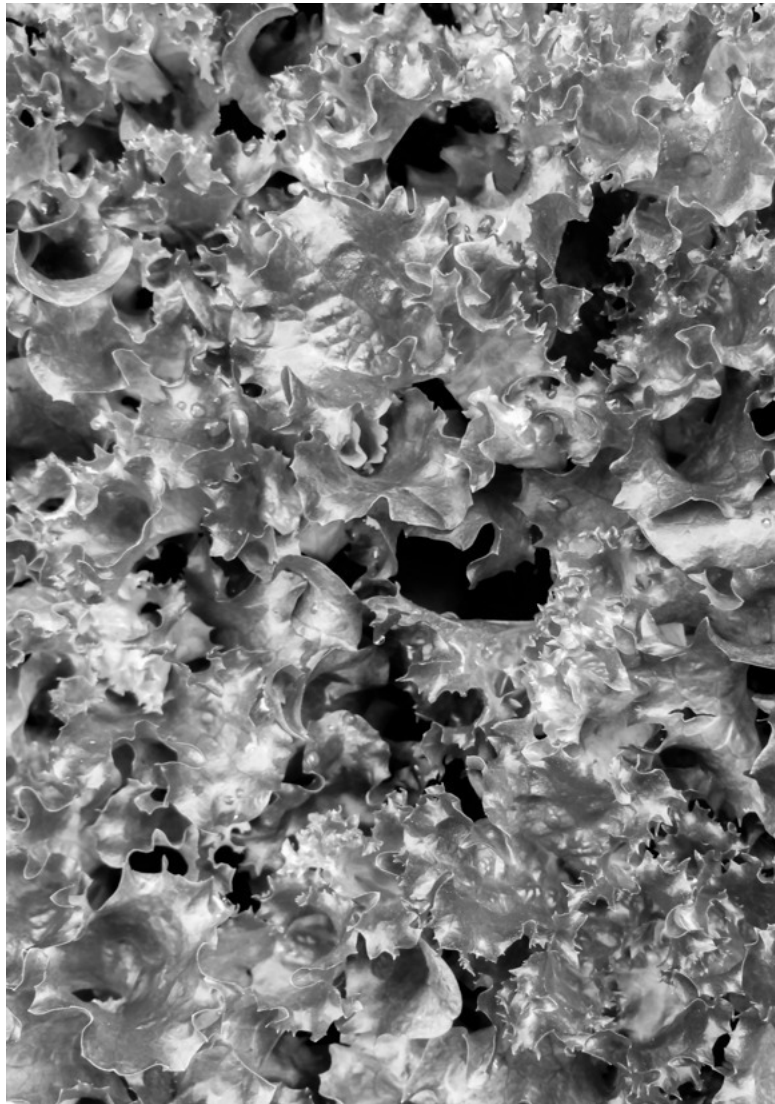
bookstore  
one book  
warm to  
the touch

**“border...”**

border

nothing

but the sign



# **“burning history...”**

burning history  
newspapers  
in a fireplace

“ **bus drives on...**”

bus drives on  
another afternoon  
left in the past

**“but a gap...”**

but a gap  
between  
dreams  
yet huge

# **“calendar...”**

calendar  
thinning  
as days  
add up

# **“a calendar...”**

a calendar  
all the days  
that might  
never come

# “candlelight...”

candlelight  
and flowers  
both smell  
over-sweet

# **“cat in the mirror...”**

cat in the mirror  
calm knowing  
it is still there

# “childhood...”

childhood  
fragments  
collectibles  
on eBay

# **“choices...”**

choices  
nowhere  
to go but  
somewhere



# “city life...”

city life

early bus

late passengers

# **“the clock ticking...”**

the clock ticking  
the sunrise away  
what if it stopped

# **“cold fireplace...”**

cold fireplace  
in the ashes  
idea for a poem

# **“computer crash...”**

computer crash  
without a sound  
on its part

# **“connecting cities...”**

connecting cities

the road cuts

the forest in half

# “counting...”

counting  
raindrops  
so many  
ways to  
be wrong

**“a crack...”**

a crack  
in the wall  
closed by  
cobweb

“ **crossroads...**”

crossroads  
yet another way  
to somewhere else

**“crumpled...”**

crumpled  
pillow  
remains  
of a dream



# “curious...”

curious

made-up

stories

mostly set

in the past

**“dark...”**

dark  
and darker  
with lights on

# **“day and dream...”**

day and dream  
in-between  
something else

**“dead...”**

dead

fresh

flowers

# **“deadline done...”**

deadline done  
breaking dawn  
breaking down

**“different...”**

different  
in twilight  
same poem

# **“different books...”**

different books  
not so different  
on a bookshelf

**“discarded...”**

discarded  
gift-wraps  
no longer  
festive

“ **a distant...**”

a distant  
memory  
up close  
an old  
photograph



# “dog days...”

dog days  
all the same  
for the dogs

**“dried flower...”**

dried flower  
in a book  
untold story

“ **a duet...**”

a duet  
inside  
the piano  
outside  
the rain

**“each stone...”**

each stone  
with a name  
graveyard

# **“the edge...”**

the edge  
of the map  
the road  
goes on

# **“endless rooftops...”**

endless rooftops  
so many yet  
only one home

# “eulogy...”

eulogy

heartfelt

words

that have

to be said

**“eyes...”**

eyes  
closed  
things  
seem  
closer

# “falling dusk...”

falling dusk  
fading clock  
keeps ticking  
nonetheless



“ **familiar...**”

familiar  
scent  
its absence  
clearer  
each time

# “family...”

family  
funeral  
reunion

# **“family album...”**

family album  
blank pages  
in the middle

# “fed by...”

fed by  
poems  
the fire

**“finally...”**

finally  
enough  
moonlight  
to make  
a haiku

**“first up...”**

first up  
then old  
growing

“ **flying...**”

flying  
first class  
outside  
same view

“ **freight train...**”

freight train  
losing the count  
of the carriages

“ **full...**”

full  
of ideas  
trash bin



# **“game of chess...”**

game of chess  
side by side  
the victorious  
the vanquished

# “Grandpa’s...”

Grandpa’s  
photographs  
strangers  
everyone

“ **graveyard...**”

graveyard  
in a book  
an old album

# **“growing older...”**

growing older  
the days seem  
shorter

# **“guiding light...”**

guiding light  
a cigarette tip  
in the dark

# “haiku...”

haiku

full-time

lockdown

# **“haiku manual...”**

haiku manual

300+ pages

about 3 lines

**“hard to tell...”**

hard to tell  
them apart  
this world  
reflection  
in a mirror

# **“hard words...”**

hard words  
soft paper  
makes them  
no less hard



“ **heavy mist...**”

heavy mist  
blurred edges  
blurred words

**“hospital...”**

hospital  
outside  
the life

**“in a crowd...”**

in a crowd  
lingering  
echoes  
of glances

**“in a few...”**

in a few  
strokes  
silence

**“in a library...”**

in a library  
the silence  
of voices

# **“in the park...”**

in the park  
a bench that is  
always vacant  
is occupied

# **“in the space...”**

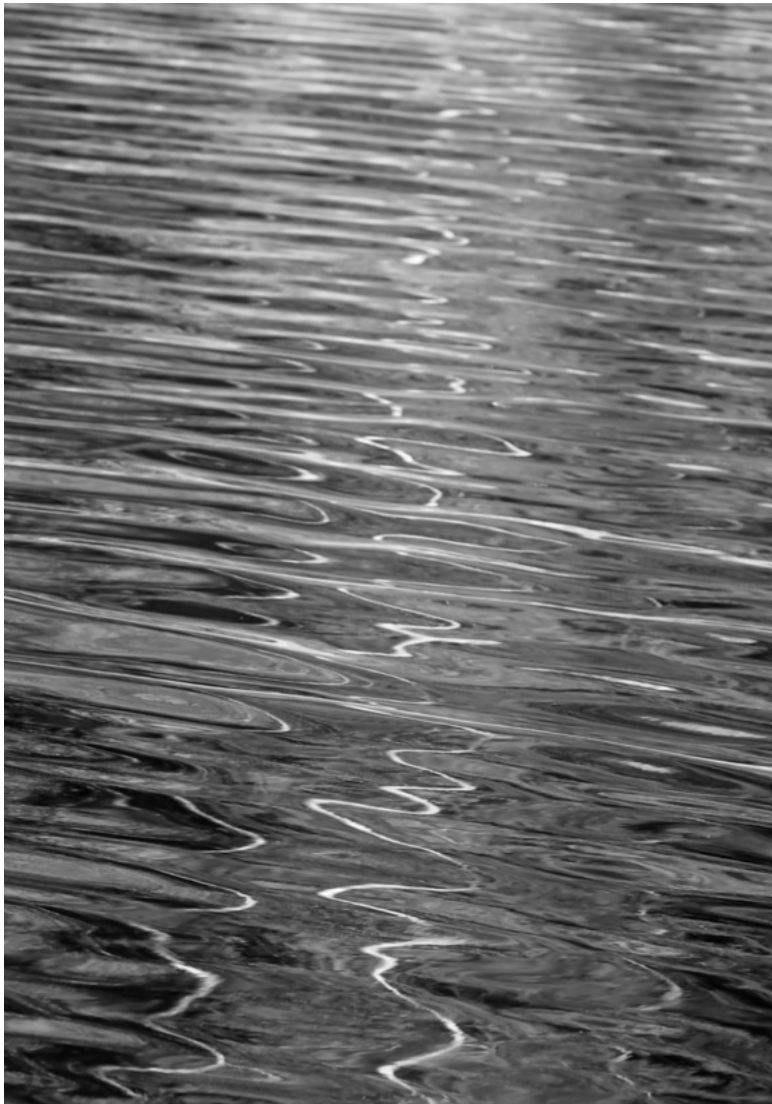
in the space  
between words  
more words

# **“insomnia...”**

insomnia  
too slow  
too soon

**“just taking...”**

just taking  
the edge off  
another glass



# **“leaving behind...”**

leaving behind  
or letting go  
difference  
exaggerated

# **“loneliness...”**

loneliness  
when you talk  
to yourself  
when you don't  
listen

**“lost...”**

lost

in a park

in thoughts

**“loud music...”**

loud music  
less silence  
    within

**“a love...”**

a love  
letter  
a lovely  
paper  
crane

# **“melting the ice...”**

melting the ice  
spring thaw  
peace talks

# **“mid-life crisis...”**

mid-life crisis  
why not call it  
half-life?

# **“a minute of silence...”**

a minute of silence  
but really about  
forty-two seconds

# **“modern art gallery...”**

modern art gallery  
evacuation plan  
rather ancient



**“a moment...”**

a moment  
an infinity  
in a few lines

# **“morning bus...”**

morning bus  
uneven pace  
of the streets

# **“morning chill...”**

morning chill  
street musician  
warms up

**“never...”**

never  
enough  
time to do  
nothing

**“new...”**

new  
home  
old  
smells

**“new teeth...”**

new teeth  
quite a bite  
dentist's bill

“ **news again...**”

news again  
but there's also  
spring

“ **night bus...**”

night bus  
looking outside  
seeing oneself

**“night sky...”**

night sky  
on tiptoes  
better to see



“ **nighttime...**”

nighttime  
from the window  
still inside

**“no words...”**

no words  
to say of it  
silence

# **“odd physics...”**

odd physics  
the darker  
the louder

“ **old grave...**”

old grave  
fresh flowers  
made of plastic

# **“old painting...”**

old painting  
not enough  
craquelures

# **“old photos...”**

old photos  
belonging  
to me now  
someone's  
memories

**“optimistic...”**

optimistic  
worse than  
yesterday  
better than  
tomorrow

“ **order...**”

order  
each object  
randomly  
in its place

**“page after page...”**

page after page  
the time goes  
at book's pace



# “paradox...”

paradox  
    before  
the next  
    time  
another

# **“passage of time...”**

passage of time  
fewer people  
that never visit

“ **the pathways...**”

the pathways  
we never take  
where they lead  
when we go back

“ **paused...**”

paused  
to check  
the time  
and missed  
the train

# “peace conference...”

peace conference  
everyone looking  
for *casus belli*

**“peaceful summer...”**

peaceful summer  
despite the war  
somewhere

**“a petal...”**

a petal  
in a cup  
an idea

**“a progress...”**

a progress  
each step  
more sure  
    of less

**“quite telling...”**

quite telling  
birthday gift  
still unwrapped  
next birthday



# “rainstorm...”

rainstorm  
music off  
to listen

“ **rainy day...**”

rainy day  
drought news  
from somewhere

“ **reasons...**”

reasons  
to leave it  
reasons  
to keep it  
anything

# **“road gridlock...”**

road gridlock  
our thoughts  
and the traffic

**“same route...”**

same route  
yesterday  
through  
today's  
streets

# **“self-education...”**

self-education  
to the museum  
to make selfies

# “a short bio...”

a short bio

a hyphen

between dates

**“snowstorm...”**

snowstorm  
airport full  
lockdown

**“so many...”**

so many

people

so much

solitude



# **“some hopes...”**

some hopes  
not unfounded  
sunrise again

**“somehow...”**

somehow  
more pretty  
girls around  
summer

**“sometimes...”**

sometimes  
nothing is  
all there is

# “spontaneity...”

spontaneity

haiku moment

revised later

# “spring at last...”

spring at last  
hospital room  
still white

# “stardust...”

stardust  
on paper  
a poem

“ still...”

still  
wet  
rainstorm  
watercolor

**“still forward...”**

still forward  
the clock  
in the mirror

# “stillness...”

stillness  
not quite  
right with  
no sounds  
at all



# “strangers...”

strangers  
on a train  
no secrets

**“street noise...”**

street noise  
louder when  
the light is off

**“streetlamps...”**

streetlamps  
halos above  
our heads

**“subway...”**

subway  
the trains  
and violin

**“suggestive...”**

suggestive

blank page

blank stare

# “sumi-e painting...”

sumi-e painting  
hidden colors within  
black and white

“ **sundial...**”

sundial  
does it work  
for the moon?

“ **sunrise...**”

sunrise  
a wallpaper  
on a screen

# **“supermarket...”**

supermarket

home-made

food discount



“ **surely...**”

surely  
an oxymoron  
silent  
loudspeakers

# “symbiosis...”

symbiosis

a live cat

a plastic

mouse

# “symmetry...”

symmetry  
no one gets  
what one  
would give

**“teacup empty...”**

teacup empty  
but for the tea  
late evening

**“ team work...”**

team work  
arguing about  
collaboration

# “tempting...”

tempting  
a view  
from above  
a long  
way down

# **“things done...”**

things done  
time left  
for regret

**“the time...”**

the time  
it takes  
to earn  
luxury  
watch

**“time being...”**

time being  
all the time

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