

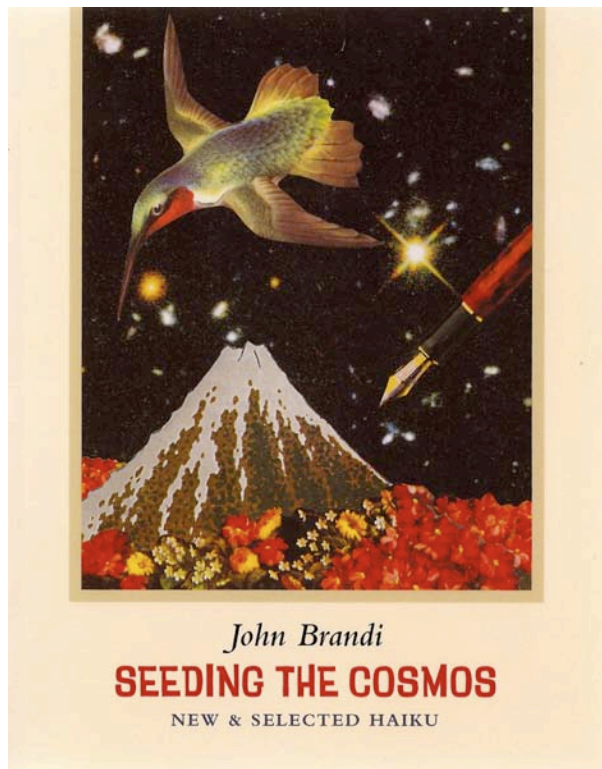


John Brandi, poet, painter, essayist, and hiker, was born in Los Angeles in 1943. His parents were his first teachers, walking him into nature and encouraging him to draw and write what he saw and felt. After graduating from the University of California in 1965, he joined the Peace Corps to work with Andean farmers in their struggle for civil liberties. In South America he began publishing his poetry in self-illustrated chapbooks which were eventually republished by small presses in the U.S. and abroad. After traveling overland from Chile to Alaska, Brandi settled in the American Southwest, his home for the past 40 years.

As a poet, he owes much to America's Beat tradition, and to his travels with the Japanese poet-wanderer, Nanao Sakaki. San Francisco Poet Laureate, Jack Hirschman, has said of Brandi: "He has been an open roader for much of his life and like his two great forbearers, Whitman and Neruda, has named the minute particulars, the details of his sojournings, infusing them with a whole gamut of feelings: compassionate, mischievous, loving and righteous.

It's what's made his poetry one of the solid bodies of work that's emerged from the North America since the '60s."

Author of three-dozen books of poetry, essays and haiku, John Brandi has given readings internationally. Travels to Cuba, Vietnam, China, Indonesia, India and Nepal have informed much of his writing. In 2005 he co-edited *The Unswept Path: Contemporary American Haiku* and in 2008 presented lectures on "The Haiku Journey: Basho to Kerouac," and on "Haiku: Walking the Contemporary Path" for the Palace of Governors Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In 2009 he gave the keynote speech for the Haiku North America Conference in Ottawa, Canada. In 2010 he was invited to India to lecture on the practice of haiku.



John Brandi lives with his wife, Renée Gregorio, in New Mexico, in a house of earth and hand-hewn timbers. Recent books of longer poems include *Facing High Water* and *In What Disappears*. His newest, *Seeding the Cosmos*, presents haiku selections from 30 years devoted to the craft.