

John Brandi, Renée Gregorio

Poetry Reading at Kyoto Nama Chocolate Organic
Tea-house, Okazaki: Saturday April 9th, 2011, from 6:30pm
with Preston Keido Houser, *shakuhachi*



John Brandi, poet, painter, essayist, and *hajjin*, lives with René Gregorio in the American Southwest. As a poet, he owes much to America's Beat tradition, and to his travels with the Japanese poet-wanderer, Nanao Sakaki. Journeys with Renée in Cuba, Vietnam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, India and Nepal have informed much of his more recent writing. In 2005 he co-edited *The Unswept Path: Contemporary American Haiku*. Recent books include *Facing High Water* and *In What Disappears*. His newest, *Seeding the Cosmos*, presents haiku selections from 30 years devoted to the craft.

Renée Gregorio's poetry collections include *The Skins of Possible Lives*, *The Storm That Tames Us*, *Water Shed*, and *Drenched*, plus many chapbooks, most recently *Road to the Cloud's House: A Chiapas Journal* (with John Brandi). She holds a third-degree black belt rank in *aikido* and is currently working on a book of *tanka*, *Snow Falling on Snow*.

"Traveling side by side, recording particulars of the journey, we return home to attend to the details. One of us writes a poem based on memory, quick-flash imagery, journal jottings, then turns it over to the other, who responds with a poem, and so on: a spontaneous ball-toss, where free-associative thoughts emerge in a back and forth poetic dialogue."



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