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100 WORDS OF HAIKU

Owen Bullock

Editor's note: In October, the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Design (FAD) at the University of Canberra (the home of *Axon: Creative Explorations*), invited members of the faculty to respond, in 100 words, to the year that has been, and especially the COVID experience. This invitation was taken up by creative writing lecturer/poet Owen Bullock, and we are pleased to include his 100 words as a synecdoche for the FAD experience as a whole community.

the length
of two dog leads
walkers chat

COVID winter morn
clouds and sunlight
and plum blossom

lonely
on the trail
a red parrot chimes

ceramic studio
tap slap of wood paddle
on clay

our empty room just ask the sound

lockdown
a girl in a tutu
playing golf in the park

out walking
giving the magpie
1.5 metres

coronavirus
I can have the park bench
all to myself

what I'm not
the cocky keening
through the suburbs

that time of night
she waters the houseplants
with her hot water bottle

after spring rains
the hillside smudged with
Paterson's curse

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Owen Bullock

Owen Bullock has published three collections of poetry, five books of haiku and a novella, the most recent being *Summer Haiku* (2019) and *Work & Play* (2017). His research interests include poetry and process; creative arts and wellbeing; semiotics and poetry; prose poetry; collaboration; and haikai literature. His scholarly work has appeared in *Antipodes*, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Arts Therapy*, *Axon*, *Journal of New Zealand Literature*, *Ka Mate Ka Ora*, *New Writing*, *Qualitative Inquiry* and *TEXT*. He has a website for his research into poetry and process, at <https://poetry-in-process.com/>. He is a Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Canberra.

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