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## Three Poems: On The Artist's Mother, Sleeping; Reverberations; 4 Found Haiku

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## Creative and Literary Works

### Three Poems

Jenna Le

#### On *The Artist's Mother, Sleeping* (1911) by Egon Schiele

If I were to paint my own dear mother,  
I wouldn't use such lush fruit-aisle colors.

Her flesh is more relaxed about the jaws.  
Her hair for many years has been more sparse.

She never folds pale hands, Madonna-like,  
on thighs resembling sticks of dynamite.

Her pillow is no rippled square of nori:  
instead, her bedding is pastel, unstoried.

What's more, her sleep is never quite so sound  
a watercolorist could safely pounce

on her asparagus extent, imbuing  
what he sees with plum and melon hues.

Like Whale's eye at the porthole, Mother's eye  
is always, always watching: red-rimmed, spry.



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## Reverberations

Snow coats the sloped roof. No ravage, no rampage,  
no rage: in place of yesterday's WINTER STORM WARNING,  
this is  
simply morning. No blizzard,  
unless you mean  
the snowstorm of whispers  
on an ultrasound machine's  
pixeled, pixie-filled screen.  
Someone mounded this snow on the tiles  
the way a doctor in an aqua smock  
heaps goo from a bottle on a girl's belly:  
to see inside.  
The fog's rocker-bottom feet  
walk heavy on our skulls. There's someone  
trying to see inside us,  
to tell us  
we're healthier than we know.

## 4 Found Haiku, Based on Anti-Asian-Immigrant Pamphlets From 1902-1922

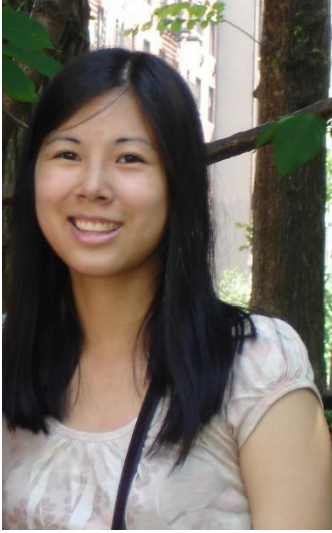
Anti-Immigrant Mass Meeting!  
(Rev. Little & Col. Petit  
will speak.)

Anti-Immigrant Mass Meeting!  
(The Boys' Choir  
will provide the music.)

They came to care for lawns  
(the pests!). They want to build a church  
(the heathens!).

Anti-Immigrant Mass Meeting!  
(Everybody Invited.  
Seats Free.)

## About the Author



Jenna Le is the author of *Six Rivers* (NYQ Books, 2011) and *A History of the Cetacean American Diaspora* (Indolent Books, 2018), a 2nd Place winner in the Science Fiction and Fantasy Poetry Association's Elgin Awards. A two-time winner of the Poetry By The Sea Sonnet Competition. She has had poems appear in *AGNI*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Los Angeles Review*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Pleiades*, *Poet Lore*, *Verse Daily*, and *West Branch*. She has a B.A. in math and a M.D. and lives and works as a physician in New York.



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