



**13-19 September 2010**  
**International Haiku Festival**  
***Haiku-in-Ghent-in-Haiku***  
**Ghent, Belgium**

**Organisation: Viadagio vzw (non-profit association)**  
**with the support of**  
**Poëziecentrum, Haikoe-centrum Vlaanderen, Stad Gent,**  
**Waterwegen en Zeekanaal nv,**  
**uitgeverij 't Schrijverke**

*Zilvervisje glimt  
Langs 't onzekre watervlak  
En hapt er een ster.*

*A silverfish  
glimmers along restless water  
and catches a star.*

- August Vermeylen (1927)

From 13 to 19 September Viadagio vzw organises with the support of Poëziecentrum (Poetry Centre) , Haikoe-centrum Vlaanderen (Haiku Centre Flanders) , Stad Gent, Waterwegen en Zeekanaal nv (Waterways and Sea Canal), an international haiku festival 'Haiku in - Ghent - in Haiku'.

Haiku poets from Europe, America, Canada and Japan are invited to Ghent to write haiku poems and related verse. The lyrical streams of the city of Ghent as well as its cultural heritage form a source of inspiration. The festival aims to be a meeting place between haiku poets from the Low Countries and haiku poets from abroad as well as to promote haiku as a poetic genre with the wider audience.

## **Viadagio vzw**

Viadagio vzw is a young non-profit association promoting a life style characterized by quality of life and durability. The association organises haiku boat trips for the festival guests by means of authentic wooden boats steered by manpower. 'Haiku in - Ghent - in Haiku' gives the participants the opportunity to experience the cultural city of Ghent in a serene and durable manner in haiku. During the festival participants enjoy the hospitality of host families in Ghent. Viadagio vzw publishes a multilingual haiku festival anthology. This allows the wider audience to obtain the taste of the haiku art of the participating poets.

## **Poëziecentrum**

The Poëziecentrum (Poetry Centre) ([www.poeziecentrum.be](http://www.poeziecentrum.be)) offers haiku poets from abroad its historical attic in the Ghent "Toreken" (Little Tower) at the Friday Market as an oasis of silence to write haiku and related verse forms. The centre helps to promote the festival through its channels. In the 80s a haiku meeting organised by the Haikoe-centrum Vlaanderen (Haiku Centre Flanders) already took place in the "Toreken". The Ghent Poetry Centre has recently published the collection *Haiku* by Herman Van Rompuy (Haiku Herman), President of Europe. In collaboration with Vormingplus the Poetry Centre organises a workshop 'writing haiku' before or during the festival.

## **PROGRAMME (preliminary)**

### **Monday 13 September**

Guests from abroad are welcomed on Monday evening in room Panda. Welcome speeches by Professor Masayuki Inui (director and co-founder of the World Haiku Association) and Jim Kacian (founder of The Haiku Foundation and owner of Red Moon Press). After a light evening meal guests are accommodated in host families in Ghent.

### **Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 September**

Participants make haiku boat trips on Ghent waterways as a source of inspiration for their poems. In the Ghent "Toreken" (Little Tower) participants have the opportunity to write their haiku on a historical attic. The multilingual poems will be translated into Dutch with the help of literary translators and prepared for publication.

### **Thursday 16 September**

The multilingual poems are translated into Dutch with the help of literary translators as well as participants, and are prepared for publication. Viadagio vzw prepares the publication of a multilingual haiku collection and haiku banners along the Ghent waters.

### **Friday 17 September**

Participants are welcomed at the city hall by the authorities of the city of Ghent. After that they enjoy a free day. Haiku poets read from their own collections of haiku and lectures will be given on 'haiku without boundaries'. They may participate in a guided city tour. In the meantime, Viadagio vzw prepares the publication of a multilingual haiku collection and haiku banners along the Ghent waters.

### **Saturday 18 September**

Haiku poets from the Low Countries take part in a panel discussion on haiku. .  
Haiku poets from abroad and haiku poets from the Low Countries exchange haiku collections. The Ghent Poetry Centre organises a visit to its centre for the guests.  
On Saturday evening a multilingual haiku festival anthology is presented with music in room Panda, Oudburg 38, Gent. A haiku contest for the wider audience is organised in the framework of the festival. The awards of this contest take place in room Panda as well.

### **Sunday 19 September**

On 19 September, European car-free Sunday, participants take leave from their host families. Haiku walks (ginko) and haiku boat trips are organised. Festival haiku are displayed on haiku banners along the Ghent waterways for a period of two months.

### **Side events**

20 September - European car-free Sunday with 'ginko' (haiku walks and haiku boat trips).

26 September - Haiku Day, Haiku Centre Flanders, Wilrijk-Antwerp.

18 September - start Music Festival of Flanders, Ghent.

Water tourism season till end of November.

### **Sponsors**

Flemish Literary Fund.

City of Ghent (Departments of Culture and Mobility).

Council of East-Flanders.

### **Registration conditions**

1. A maximum of 3 participants per country are invited. Around 15 to 20 haiku poets - participants are expected.
2. Participants may bring along one person under the same conditions. This person, however, cannot participate in the haiku boat trips on 15 and 16 September.
3. Travelling costs to reach the festival and to return home are at the expense of participants.
4. During the haiku festival week participants are accommodated free of charge in host families in Ghent. Accommodation may be extended following travel schemes with the approval of host families.
5. Participants are offered free of charge breakfast and three-course evening meals with beverages.
6. Participants may participate free of charge in a guided city tour.
7. Viadagio vzw reserves the right to publish and translate participants' haiku in any form.
8. Participants who register first receive reservation priority compared with participants registering later.
9. Participants reserve a place by providing the organiser with the following information: full name, man/woman; age, position/membership, address, telephone number, e-mail address, number of participants, mother-tongue, and familiarity with English/any other foreign language. The same information is given for the possible second participant who is brought along.

10. Reservation takes place after participation confirmation by the participant and after the participant receives confirmation of registration from the organiser.
11. Possible queries/wishes.

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