

'abstract period'). Invariably, from the pattern of these kindred ties emerged the images of objects, nature, people. Immunologists and biochemists recognized molecular relationships, the formula of mind-changing drugs. Others thought they could identify geographical regions, cloud formations or town maps. His "Vita Violenta" was bought by an industrialist who believed it accurately reflected the rise and fall of his companies' shares over the past twenty years.

He finished his new series in time for the European showings. Back in the country of his birth, he was interviewed about the status of migrant art in his adopted home. How heavily was his work influenced by Aboriginal painting? Did he acknowledge a certain restlessness in his pictures? Was he going to spend a lot of time in his native land? He shook his head to all these questions. There was nothing he could say. Later that night, the investigator contacted him at his hotel. The decomposed body of a woman had been found in a wood near the border. Documents in a handbag nearby had identified her as his mother. It would be necessary for him to assist the police. He felt neither triumph nor horror. Nor did it surprise him to learn that his father still had not been located. He never could draw men.

## ROBERT RANDALL

### HAIKU

Deep in the cavern,  
bubbling brooks and waterfalls  
brush the mountain's teeth.

A marble statue  
whispers cool chiselled secrets,  
for anyone to hear.