

Newsletter

THE WRITER'S BLOCK

BY

SANDRA D. SIMMER



Contact me

Sandra D. Simmer

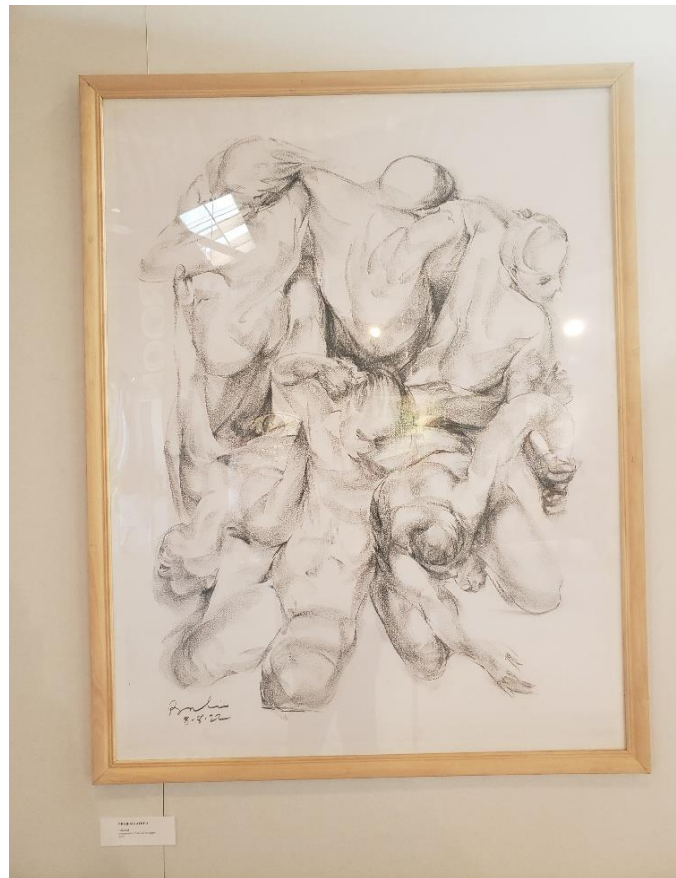
www.sandradsimmer.com

sandradsimmer@gmail.com

Welcome, reader friends, to my inaugural newsletter. It's been an exciting year since the launch of my first novel *The Reclamation: Earth Under Siege* in January 2023 on Amazon. I've been quite busy promoting my book and working on the second novel in my science fiction trilogy. I've also enjoyed participating in local poetry and art events. A trip to one of my bucket list locations, Scotland, UK, inspired many poems and short stories.

Join me in celebrating this year of amazing creative experiences by viewing the photos and writing excerpts included inside. To stay informed on all my activities, subscribe to my newsletter online at www.sandradsimmer.com.

Recent highlights



Charcoal drawing *Imposed* Artist Prabin Badhia

In October 2023, I participated in an exciting Ekphrastic Poetry Workshop sponsored by the Emeryville Art Association and Poet Sarah Kobrinsky. Poets gathered mid-month to view the annual Emeryville Art Exhibition. We selected works of art that inspired us to write reflective poems. On October 30th, participating poets conducted a poetry reading at the gallery to share their work with the artists and community audience members.

Three of my poems were selected and published with photos of the artwork in the event chapbook, *Emery Arts 37*. I've included a photo of the amazing charcoal drawing *Imposed*, by the artist Prabin Badhia, that inspired my poem *Breaking Away*. Prabin posted our creative collaboration on Instagram.

Breaking Away

Caught, trapped, held in place
By chains invisible to the eye
Formed by bonds of steel
Created by family, marriage,
Parenthood, or partnership,
Links grown tight with jealousy,
Control, anger, competition,
Even boredom or old age.
Unseen manacles of misplaced
loyalty
Keep the strongest grip
Upon ones heart and soul.
Our hands reach out to grasp
Those around us, to strengthen
the resolve,
To keep everyone committed
And maintain the status quo.
Even though the misery
withstood
Grows more painful by the day
We dare not break away.
Better to hold the devil you
know close.
Continue to writhe in the circle
of chaos
Captured by regret and lost
chances to live,
Afraid to be the one to break the
chain.
Until at last, one brave soul
loosens her grip
And reaches out a hand into the
world
Trusting that a life well lived
Is worth the dare to change.
Poet Sandra D Simmer

Artists &

Poets

Share

Inspiration

Exciting 2024 Events!

Fans of my first novel *The Reclamation: Earth Under Siege* will be happy to know I am working on the sequel. I have joined a critique group to help me complete my novel in the coming months. **Please subscribe to this newsletter on my website www.sandradsimmer.com to keep updated on progress on book II and potential launch date.**

In 2024 I'll have several poems published in anthologies by local poetry groups including the Carquinez Review, The Benecia Literacy Arts' *Unsettled*, and Ina Coolbrith Circle's *Gathering 16*.

The photo below was taken at the 2023 Fairfield Poets Reverse Ekphrastic Poetry Event. The artist created a three-dimensional collage inspired by my poem *A River Washes Away*. See the sidebar for details on the next event coming in February 2024.

Reverse Ekphrastic Poetry Event 2024

Fairfield Poets Reading
For Artist selection
Dunnell Burton Center
February 10, 2024
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Followed by

Artist and Poet Reveal
Dunnell Burton Center
April 13, 2024
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Fall 2023 in Photos



In September 2023, I rode the famous Jacobite Steam Train through the Highlands over the Glenfinnan viaduct on my "Harry Potter" adventure in Scotland.



In October I visited the Charles M. Schulz Museum in Santa Rosa, California. The creator of the *Peanuts* comic strip was an amazing cartoonist and observer of the human condition. Who hasn't learned a life lesson from Charlie Brown or Snoopy?

More 2023 Highlights

I promoted my Amazon published science fiction/dystopian novel *The Reclamation: Earth Under Siege* at several local venues. One of the biggest challenges of independent publishing is book promotion. If you've already enjoyed reading my novel, thank you! Please encourage others to check out my website for a book description and to subscribe to my free quarterly newsletter. Content will vary to include my poems or short story excerpts, as well as updates on the sequel to my book. I love to share my work!

One of my most unique 2023 book promotion events was at the California State Fair held in Sacramento. I had a space for a day in the Author Booth where I could display and sell my book. It was exciting to meet other authors and greet the public in a fun filled location.



2023 Book Promotion Events

- Book Sale at June ICC Poetry Club luncheon
- Book Sale at California State Fair in July
- Book Sale at August church extravaganza
- Coffee shop Open- Mic in October

What's coming in 2024?

I'm looking forward to another year of creative activities. Goals include finishing my second book, finding new ways to promote my work, participating in poetry groups, and connecting with new creative friends.

Please reach out to me by email at sandradsimmer@gmail.com if you have any questions or comments. I hope to share more of my writing adventures with you.

All the best,

Sandra D. Simmer

www.sandradsimmer.com