

Artist's Statement

My art, whether writing poetry, singing, or doing tai chi, is about letting go and trusting the process. In my career as a computer scientist I strove to write code simply and elegantly, and express concepts clearly and succinctly in research papers. Now that I am retired, I do the same in my art, but with feeling, imagery, and movement, not just intellectual concepts. Unlike my career, I can only minimally plan what will happen. I am often surprised at the result.

I have a love of poets such as Wordsworth, Rilke, and Rumi. My formal training in literature is limited; I draw on my life experience and extensive reading in a number of subjects. This year I've attended writing workshops regularly, and recited poetry at several open mic's. Cultivating Keats' negative capability is effective in finding the words.

One of the emphases in my career was scientific visualization. I've experimented with visual imagery in a different way recently, combining it with poetry I've written, and publishing it on YouTube. Examples are

- The Heart of a Star, with a similar title to the entry but very different subject matter: <http://youtu.be/WW7kAO37QmE>
- The Comb Over: <http://youtu.be/sQDDRq19XBA>

When I saw that there was a contest about the Campanile, I had to write a poem. It's been part of my life whenever I've been in Berkeley since I moved to the Bay Area in 1981. I would hear it from my office at Berkeley National Lab or when I was on campus. It's been celebratory in good times and always a comfort.