ask for irises. with ire and hot ice. reflects a kissed day. or damp-flamed promise. dying blue fish wash ashore before winter rains, darkens with five perfumed irises not iris-colored sparrows Blue jay ink-blotched sky, The water is red, The water basin - lism ni gnidton llit2 17. .8 .02 .9t whisper blue-sky dreams. leaving messages. memories of love. leave stung blue surprise. and black-blue morning, blue shadows in the cobalt emptiness, rice paper, pressed irises, excavate honey for poems, Between blue sundown Gulls are irises Carved woodblocks, blue ink, Love-starved bumblebees .61 II. ۲. JS. cool down my temper. in monk's beggar bowl. or stillbirth, or arms. breaks in falling leaves. let in hot irises' winds, like a moth or irises, Irises inundation mild aperture of light, Open yellow shutters, 'pauadoun si ano -guing of spring— The iris of eyes, 18. 10. .9 .41 it blues goldenrods. in the leaves, no lies. wyeke yas snumer tlown? sending butterflies. trom the sharing irises, cyipped like a tooth, no tortune birds nesting in frozen beard do not want to open it, I yeke is so which blue lrises teacup, Blue cheeks, frostbite hands, Sapphire iris on gate -

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## Haiku Irises

Martin Willitts Jr. © 2012

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## Haiku Irises

13.



Martin Willitts Jr.

A sequenced haiku based on Van Gogh's painting of *Irises*, 1889

.6

Van Gogh considered this work a "study" of Japanese ukiyo-e woodblock prints 1.

The study of blue, where it is more than eye sees, in colorless rain.

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2.

Blue shadowy grass in blue snow melt, voices of angels, single crocus stir.

3.

Indigo islands swim on old sea turtle shells, irises intoning.

4.

Kimonos are kites in summer brushes, flutter like my absent heart.