

*REAL ROSES AND OTHER POEMS*

By Frank Jousen

I'm laying down my pen –  
instead of praising them  
I'm going out to see, feel  
and try to smell the roses.

I'm leaving my desk –  
instead of putting it down in writing  
I'm going to laugh, love,  
and try to enjoy my life ...

before another unique picture  
painted by nature  
urges me to  
freeze and to frame it once again.

*SOUL SEARCHING*

the artist's soul  
doesn't live continuously  
in one place  
the artist's soul  
lives simultaneously  
in various cracks  
of reality

the artist's soul  
can never be whole  
until every one

is seen as different  
and every thing  
is seen as one.

***TIGER IN THE RAIN***

Now for all your bravado,  
your beautiful strength,  
you feel like a tiger in the rain  
suddenly alert to the danger –  
the villagers are close,  
too close to your clearing,  
the rain having veiled their footsteps,  
diluted their smells.

When they round you up,  
their hated, hunted beast,  
your lifelong wit will lead you nowhere  
for this may well be their turn  
at long last.

**Bio**

**Frank** is a German teacher and writer. His publications include two selections of his poetry, one of them being a bilingual collaboration with Romanian poet Ana Cicio. He has edited two international anthologies of poetry/fiction in India. His poems and short stories have also been published in a variety of literary magazines and anthologies in G.B., Ireland, Germany, Romania, Malta, the U.S.A., Canada, India, Thailand, and have been translated into German, Romanian, Hindi and Chinese. He is currently working on a second international family anthology.