

Seeing in Sixes

Hakone Gardens, Saratoga

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## Winter turns to Spring at Hakone Gardens

These images are from an afternoon visit to Hakone Gardens in mid February 2021. The gardens provides a peaceful oasis set on the hillsides above a busy valley.

Construction began on the gardens and the Upper (Moon Viewing) House in 1917, inspired by Panama-Pacific Exposition in 1915 and a visit to Japan in 1916 by Oliver and Isabel Stine, the first owners. Like the world war that later interrupted the connection between Saratoga and Kyoto, the winter ends and the rains bring spring blooms to this corner of Santa Clara County. The estate and gardens are owned by the City of Saratoga and administered by The Hakone Foundation

My visit to Hakone Gardens in February and the process of creating these images inspired the haiku that accompany each image.



Entering the garden

the gate wide open  
winter greyness becomes new  
blossoms and green leaves



Moon Viewing House Veranda

the sister city,  
awaiting the moon rising  
the house of two worlds





19<sup>th</sup> Century Tea  
Merchant Home & Shop

clay vessels and boxes  
the timeless treasure stored here  
tea ceremonies past



## Hillside Strolling Garden

winding path below  
fence winds down the steps untrod  
bamboo in the breeze



## Tea Time

set out waiting for  
the guest that arrives today  
an afternoon pleasure



Koi Pond Garden & The  
Moon Bridge

the visitor sits  
Sun lighting waves in the pond  
the shadows growing





## Plum Blossoms

no cherry blossoms yet  
the plum blossoms a preview  
better times to come