



Image from Traveltalk

Marvin R. Hiemstra

Be Kind to Your Metaphor

A poet's heart
is a kind and joyful
cathedral. No

expense has
been spared
on the misericords:

playful moments
carved on choir flipseats
making a monk grin

while standing
in prayer without end
(mice playing a hide-and-seek

game in a Bishop's hat OR
a nun, throwing caution
to the wind, watering

a peony named
Eden's Perfume
OR a priest losing

his cool at chess
with a Neo-Satanic
multilingual intern

OR two blissful
folks crawling out
of a haystack). Raw

experience inspires
the best chuckle.
Rainbow glass

windows change color
on each heartbeat:
difficult, but heartfelt work.

Pipe organ, proven rascal,
adores the *vox humana*
and sneaky wake-up time crescendos.

A poet's heart,
a cathedral at sunrise,
welcomes all.

(Note from the poet: A misericord is a cartoon carved in wood on the bottom of a choir seat in a medieval cathedral. A modern example might be a rabbit aiming a gun at a human hunter with his arms up. Cathedral services, often five times a day, could involve an hour and a half of standing each time, so a *misericord* somewhat eased the *misery*.)

Marvin R. Hiemstra's books include *Poet Wrangler—droll poems* and *Raven Understands: A Happy Memoir*. He lives in San Francisco.