

Sonnet Scroll

Japanese Brush Strokes on Rexham Beach

By Catherine Mayes

Rain during the night left sand
crusty and watermarked.

Seagull tracks like kanji, for mouth,
had been etched into the sand

with an extra line from the left top corner
to the right lower corner

like “no talking here” kanji for mouth
instead of a wide-open mouth kanji.

Searching through the Japanese dictionary to
translate what seagulls were talking about,

I found no hints, just beautiful marks
and raucous seagull calls.

After the tide wiped the sand clean,
a whole new paragraph appeared next day.