

LAVERNE FRITH

Three Poems About Art

1. Café Concert

(a drawing by Georges Seurat, c. 1887)

the cast
like white ghosts
moves on stage

each act transfixes
the audience
in its brilliant aura

but the scene
is dominated
by the dark derbied gentlemen

in back
who alternate
their attention

between the ladies
in the front row
and the stage

the real performances
will likely come later
when they all come together

to sort out the evening
and bring the drama
to a close

2. Things Seen in a Painting II

In a Pollock abstraction,
the crimson charm of paintbrush,
windblown puffs of dandelion white,
yellow spread of mules' ears,
serpentine magenta twists of manzanita,
golden blush of lupine,
background green of trees,
a floral potpourri.

3. Secrets of the Fourfold Place

I opened
the closet door
took out
a small stand
of four colourful
panels

bordered
in lacquered
wood
made in China

on one side
four separate scenes
each showing
a different bird
nestled
on a branch
amid a flourish
of flowers

on the other side
of the panels
four paintings
each of different
mountains
and their approaches

almost hidden
in those scenes
two elders
each on a trek
to those highlands

in search
of fourfold knowledge