L A V E R N E  F R I T H

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