

Railway Windows

Railway Window 1 / Metanoia

six white cattle
egrets run
into a bare field
bruising the mist.

their long mauve
toes press
into black winter
earth, wings

half-raised
like the arms
of old men
warding off death.

Railway Window 2 / Eclasia¹

dry desert words perish
into a transient's fire.
beneath a highway overpass,
orange shadows leap
from parched sticks.

the train squeals to a short
halt; slumped bodies
sitting up all night
in the passenger cars
shift forward in their seats.

who saw, in the brief
moment before the train
jolted and rolled on,
a startled figure sit up
black against a late fire?

¹ *Eclasia: a gathering "called out" consciously from an original group ("original participation") to a new affiliation outside the old cultural paradigm. Those who have broken the "agreement that consciousness signs"*

Railway Window 3 / Van Gogh

two young girls dressed in white,
arms windmilling, run
down a mudpuddled country road,
running out of the corner of a picture
framed for an instant
by the train window; two white
blurs of light in an impressionist
painting – Van Gogh's mind
races through Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Railway Window 4 / Kota Station (Jakarta)

ancient brick and concrete kampung,
corrugated metal roofs, walls collapsing,
holes of odd sizes –
at one, near the ground
poking out of the squalor,
litter, laundry,
two small faces peak
at the departing train, delighted.