

Frivolous Pleasures, Indolence, Tenderness, Unhappiness

Erik Noonan

what is the matter - Thomas Hardy

Ensnared in circumstance like any other
saved every time consequence loomed up
by a dispassionate inopportune proclivity
for myopic surrender examining minutiae
combined with an importunate habit
of giving blunt voice to contradictory views
(flung out as bons mots and forgotten
not rehearsed as gambits and deployed
dialectically in a debate over game rules),
those who took the heat for the race
exhausted eating dust he just kept on
disturbing the order there, preoccupied.
Who could have guessed what would set him free?
Look at everyone there was to talk to now!

Silk Garden

Erik Noonan

a soft rigor - Richard Wilbur

Twine binds a vermilion border knotted
at each corner rosemary sprigs wicker
baskets abrim with figs grapes blue thistles
intertwine ribbon bows a breeze twists
pear apple peach cherry ceiling fresco
against pearl sky all radiates toward
one great central octagon rosette
flanked by eight butterflies gliding
all rendered anatomically botanically drawn
painted to an ideal dimension and scale
raspberries blackberries frond leaf green shoot
iris statice daffodil freesia narcissus
some nothing that's everything for love to wear
what was first meant by the roots of paradise