

Broadsheet November 1902

The Cuala Press was an Irish private press set up in 1908 by Elizabeth Yeats that played an important role in the Celtic Revival of the early 20th century.

Who coloured Cathbad
purple against a sky so bitterbright orange it stuns
& drags the eye upward from the lovers, surrounded
by ladies of smog who have a hunger on them
so inky black it bleeds onto the reverse page in palimp-
sests? Our Lady irons her mantle
bent over the table, a saint at work-
shop for all women who feel the lumbar
strain of monotonous labour
& yes, loved labour, it's just it cranks the joints,
the arm & spine like an automaton
in a white smock over the abcd.
The seanchaí appears by her hand,
the one learning to spell the colours,
of flannbhuí, of glas, of bán
– & there is still so much work to be done.

Malga Campo

Silver bell coming down
mountain-sided silence,

sounds like a fly dancing
on the cow's back.

What's dirty is pure.
Turning sickness to health,

farm-soil transubstantiates
from flesh & back again.

What close quarters
of smell we live in!

Today the milk was sweet
as the moss & mushroom earth.