

CAM BRIDGE RELITERARY VIEW.

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John James

Breakfast At Red Lodge

Stop on the Turnpike in the month of May
& after breakfast head up country. From here on, says J,
grinning over a serious forkful of Red Lodge Special,
we're in the Texas of East Anglia.
Is that so, says J, with mock sobriety.

The counter of the café painted cheerful red, the tea is hot & brown
& the heads of passing saints look down
from the wall on these two pilgrims
laughing madly in the Hopper window
where space opens up into the blue beyond the red & white stripe canopy.

Years later swirls of sandy dust blow low across the truck park over the street.
At the next table Asterix the Gaul steadies himself above a dish of red meat.
HGV men return their empty plates & are gone.
It's a sunny afternoon. Drive on, they say, drive on.

At Roche Court

the trees around the rolling park in the month of May
are spreading fully into leaf in differing shades of green
& waving in the gusting air that rustles through the leaves near by

the breaking sun gleams on the outstretched arm of a giant bronze
a dancing hare poised with elongated foot on a solid disk
above its elephant supporters

Madeleine's gentle eyes attentive to the smallest detail
say hello amid the throng of pilgrims
& Jo speaks of the work in mellow voice unruffled by the gale

& Peter is weaving an unseen camera through the spaces
just as the clouds are passing by an aperture
shaped by the arms of acrobatic hares

& a herring boat approaches the Bridge at Fort Augustus
as a whippet is running free close to the ground amongst us

Author Info

John James left his native city of Cardiff for Bristol and then Cambridge where he has lived and worked for many years. He was a founding editor of *The Resuscitator* in Bristol and became one of the group closely associated with *The English Intelligencer* in Cambridge. His work embraces everyday life, the visual arts, philosophical speculation, homage, place, food, love, memory and loss. His *Collected Poems* appeared from Salt in 2002 and a new book is forthcoming from Equipage.

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