

Some Poems

Also by John Seed

Spaces In (Pig Press, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1977)

History Labour Night. Fire & Sleet & Candlelight (Pig Press, Durham 1984)

Transit Depots (Ship of Fools, London 1993)

Interior in the Open Air (Reality Street, London 1993)

Divided into One (Poetical Histories, Cambridge 2003)

New & Collected Poems (Shearsman, Exeter 2005)

Pictures from Mayhew: London 1850 (Shearsman, Exeter 2005)

That Barrikins: Pictures from Mayhew II (Shearsman, Exeter, 2007)

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John Seed

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Obits of the day
From dark to twilight and dark again
Hiss of tyres along tree-lined avenues
Suburban grids surveillance logs
Beech leaves missing-persons reports
London's icy shimmer of lights
Whispers and rumours
Watery surfaces
Rain a few seconds ago

Roehampton Lane

I

From Genthe's Photographs of San Francisco's Old Chinatown 1895–1906

I

Each green stalk
a paper ring
on a bed
of pebbles white
narcissus in clay
pots icy slivers
of sunlight on
an upturned box

2

Wrapped in a
blanket drawing on
a long pipe
his table display
of used teapots
cloth tassels
wire bird-cage
a kitten watches

3

Too old for
hard labour the
pipe-bowl mender
bathed in sunlight
wire-rim spectacles
tools on a
sack on a
doorstep his workshop

4

Slave girl daughter
of Tien-hou
head down against
the cold hurrying
shadow a wintry
moment on the
corner kerbstone by
the Globe Hotel

Far away on the cold mountain
A stone path slants up among
White clouds people have their homes
Half-hidden I wait for a
While loving the woods in the
Evening frozen leaves each leaf singular
Redder than any spring flower autumn

April spent

May too

so soon

how many more spring mornings evenings...

smoky wisp of a life

dim towers loom out of the misty rain