

Knute Skinner

TAYTO CRISPS

(for Dunstan and Morgan)

Where I open the package of Tayto Crisps
they're all there, happy as a commercial,
full of snap and taste.

And I do taste them, I taste one or two quite deliberately.
Smokey Bacon, Salt and Vinegar or Cheese and Onion,
I savor them all, fully aware of their goodness,
such a welcome my mouth has for them.

Then I shake out a small handful, I don't want to spill them.
Then another then another and then another.
I am surprised at how many there are.
I eat more quickly, my molars are crammed with them,
the bag will never be emptied.

Then, before you know it, the bag is empty.
There are only fragments left, and grains of salt.
I must put my tongue to work now like a toothpick.
I must lick my fingers.