

PRESERVATION, RESTORATION, INTERPRETATION

In Museum- and Galleryland

It's baths not showers, and justly so:

Long oppressed legs and downtrodden feet

Taste Roman luxury. The dull head bows...

You too shall be dust, like the emperors

And artists, he reflects

On the unsuspecting limbs alive before him.

SELF-PORTRAITS

Dandruff falls in the Martin-Gropius-Bau;

Toothache flares in the Neue Nationalgalerie;

In the State Museums of the Prussian Cultural Heritage

Cancers of various kinds are queuing to see

If the dead, at least, have retained a well-groomed composure.

The eyes of the painters — averted, imploring — unblinking,

From the depths of their deepening shadows say Yes and then No.

RESTAURANT ➡ a sign says, to steer us from serious thinking.