

Graham Catt

FAMILY PORTRAIT

picnic blankets are spread
along a coastline of shadow

forming an archipelago
of patchwork islands

where flotillas of litter float
in harbours of indifference

empty bottles like boats
sail on a sea of grass

Father drifts off to sleep
Mother is marooned on a book

others lost in a fog of alcohol
their thoughts treading water

conversation has been stranded
shipwrecked on a reef of silence

the gulf between each person
is now wider than oceans

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