

BLUE SKIES

The blue-china skies of our climes
now that it's winter, are in contrast, I know,
to the slate-grey of our Southern territories.
The wealthy come here in winter, and officials
brassy enough to have weight in their paper dominions.
But I think such skies purposeless, too easy for large and small artists
who have done nice work here, but work suspect
because of that bland blue heaven. "Did he
not want to paint light in the sky?" Very difficult
imagining ultra-life living fixed there. The whole
hedonistic appearance just incredible,
unless there are birds on the wing and a Japanese signature;
or, partly-nude people, the sea, and beach umbrellas.
But never all gumtrees and mountains on a china-blue background.

JOHN BLIGHT