

PADDO PLUS

(For sister Maggie)

1

Rather like a human
rabbit warren for
a hundred years or so,
it became real estate
like many a convict
ancestor made good
and gentrified, meaning
no longer pork-pied

2

Labyrinthine 'Street
Plan', a contradiction
in terms, there are more
ways than five to get to
Five Ways, but once
there there are enough
options to allow you
to be neglectful of time's
inevitable consequence
and not care, no matter
the ridiculous expense.

3

Or you could visit
Maggie's place (don't
raise your eyebrows,
it's neither a brothel
nor a born-again-Christian
residence thank god!).
But if civilized hedonism
is a sin then I'd have to confess
it's a blessedly sinful place
with no taint of disgrace.

4

When we had croissants
for breakfast I wondered
about the evolution
of geometrical shapes
and the alternative croissants
I've seen: for example
on nationalistic flags
or sickle-shaped beaches;
and the crescent moon
in the velvet midnight sky
which is almost the answer
to my unanswered questions;
to every mysterious Why?

5

It's midwinter now
but a clear clean light
displays the calm colours
of the terrace houses:
an effect like a flower
arrangement to distill
the essence of the fading hour
while you live life to the full
despite its clichés
and its often rotten days.

Syd Harrex
19.7.05

GESTALT GAZING

Fasting or surfeiting? These unidentical
twins dressed in irrepressible, neatly creased,
waiters' liveries ask with supplicating
insistence. OK: just another slide-show
entertainment, but this time ... nightmarish ...
the projector stalls, the gramophone needle
stuck, the frozen image a silent snow-
flaking storm of arthritically entwined
fingers and members; fists of entangled
vines each to each never to be released
from their rectangular gilt frame on that
wall facing studio windows open
to garden glimpses of sunfall glances
that death's mirror of illusion enhances.

Syd Harrex