

A N D R A S F E R E N C  
K O V A C S

## *No Man's Landscape*

adjusting to the rhythmic gasps of blue  
of long-distance running trees  
to the prairies whisked away  
behind the gladiatorial sky wire-net  
to the floating lute toccata  
of the blind wind on the serial poles  
in the victory of defeat  
the inherently transient  
the transiently inheritable  
in the cease-fire of the word  
adjusting to the spirit's  
marathon loneliness  
to the sliding shadow of frontal lobes  
in the muddy bogs of delusion  
to the history  
of fugitive backyards  
to scrapyards bedecked in flags  
to the war declarations of graveyards  
to the deportation of stones  
to the exile of the dead  
adjusting to their heroic dead  
in the backwaters of oblivion  
in the civil wars of the cemeteries  
where every stirring pebble  
becomes the stele of revolution  
in the no-man's land of resolutions  
in the no-man's landscape of ideas  
in the land of empty promises  
in a powerful hydro-geography  
along unknown littoral sectors  
adjusting to the kingdom  
the power and the glory

to obliterated sentinel-boxes  
kennels and poultry-coops  
to memorials to terminus stations  
declared missing  
to timetables for freedom  
declared null and void  
in the voluntary pulp-engines  
of labyrinthine consciousness  
adjusting to the involuntary  
eradication of regions  
in the no-man's landscape of absolutism  
the collapsed tunnels  
the unexpected transformers  
the merciless transcendentalists  
transmutable gods and sculptures  
on the same transposable pedestals  
exchangeable ads and pamphlets  
adjusting to the law's  
transfiguration  
to the railway regulations'  
ascension  
hanging out of memory's  
mine-field is dangerous  
hanging about is dangerous hanging the head  
is recommended righteousness  
generosity nessnessecityosity  
in the civil defence parade  
of the cockaded litter bins  
behind wire-net fences  
in the cease-fire of the word  
to the point of breathlessness  
from how many foreign triumphs  
into how many familiar defeats  
trees winds corpses travellers  
in no man's landscape  
the inherently transient  
the transiently hereditary  
mute two-legged apocalypse  
adjusting to it all

*(Translated by Stephen Humphries and Kinga Dornacher)*