and other shores





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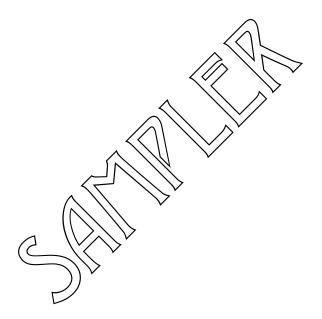
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Positions

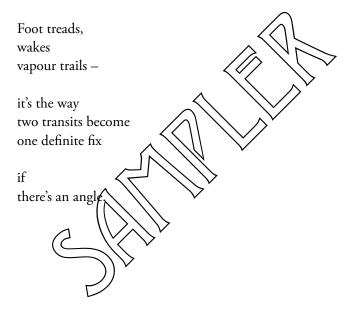




Fix (for Saki)

So many tracks in pencil or pixels your own and the others.

Solid or dotted erased or saved screened or printed.

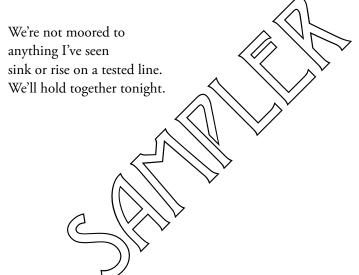


Tannara Mòr postage stamp project – Saki Satom

Skylight (circa 1980) (for BZ)

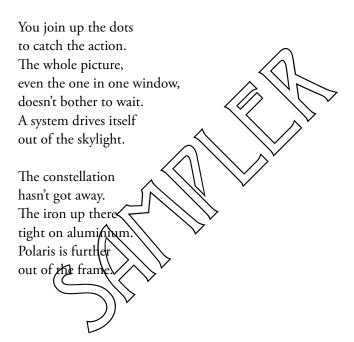
I'm lying with you a mile inland under rain that drills the roof-sheets storms all chinks in the flashings.

The sealed window unit isn't. There happens to be a power-cut and there's a depth of singing height above the weather.



Skylight (circa 2020)

These clouds look steady enough. Their sky anchors must be out though I can't see the traces of the cables but the plough is on the move, fair sweeping along.



Lyrics for Sean and Rosie

Did you dwell here with me in this beehive of placed stones if only for summers when cattle were heavy?

Did our barley-rigs hold in deep-cleared furrows between acidic turf and the salted rock.

Did you bait lines for us at the head of this steep loch where Sron Ulladale bears to winter whitefish?

Will we set a fire now, light it this ebb tide to send out a signal — heat smoke and hope

Should we plant a loward. The seed of red herries for imagination to germinate when leaves mould, stars die?

A hawthorn for healing – spur and leaf balm. We should put a bit back for others to find at a possible later.

Rooting for ourselves and for us all

Adapted from lyrics in 'Malin Hebrides Miches' – with photos by Sam Maynard, Dangaroo Press, 1983



Field Notes

(Following William MacGillivray, naturalist and artist, 1796–1852)

1 Barabhas

you can put your hand to this form in the rushes still warm though

the speed of cooling air snaps at your knuckles but the smoulder of this morning

will equalise temperatures and the fog will be gone like the hare

2 Gearrannan

Gearrannan, I hail Mhor looking to footfalks

wary of fleeing wolves carrying the wn young on their eight legs

below us and them the underswell at Àird a' Ghobhann

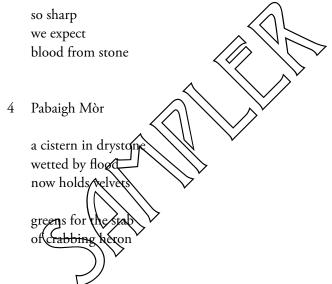
which Smith was he?

3 On Todun

a parent plover wades deer-grass gold

a cuckoo in the scrub of birch and myrtle

a merlin cuts across the face of field-vole rock



5 Eadar Dha Fhadhail,

stark caps small commons stern wind between two fords

6 Beinn Dhubh Losgaintir

Paul is a composer who identifies birds from their sounds as well as their shapes.

'It could be in the modes or the key. I haven't got perfect pitch. I've faith in frailty.'

