

Sunflowers and Blackbirds

After Walter Henry Williams

Petals and blades sanguine barefoot
As you enter gates to stopgap Paradise
Fencing around our father's garden
Where we never spent enough time
Earthside it is a circle delight
In motion frenzy of flight
Black brushes halo our kingdom
Garland along the gradation My hands
Turn over soil Godshaping
Waterbodies stones golden orbits
Membrane and Memory
Umbilicus Conduit to a cosmos
Heat and sound We constellate
A fallen nest we study beneath a tall tree
Pretend everything possible
All my mother wished me Fragrant
In my mind Muttering
Something of lost possessions
Smoke spiraling burning books a collection
Of records that may never be mine
And are always with me A living past
I've tried to convince you of Answers
Why a callous won't form
On my right hand Dry earth cracks
In the concrete Debris preserved
At the steps of a brownstone
 Just below Broadway
Riverside Drive The Hudson
The pastel shack A breath from the coast
Shrieking across the murky Atlantic
Worlds forming
Within my love Some immeasurable
Space I draw you
 Making believe but sure
As we're all saying yes
 To our lives a hint
A smile— crooked picket fence bathed
In sun and it's perfect A song
Breaking the bough The roots know
Words to quiet the whine
It is your voice Assured of the lie

Death has always been