

Sketchbook 6-1JanFeb2011

The New Pond

Michael E. Stone

ducks, geese and rushes,
a swan parceled up
head wrapped in wing
ducks root in mud, and geese
splash-land on the water.

on a post, a duck
sits like a effigy watching
the goose squadrons
swim in regatta.

willows' long leaf-hair
combs the shining surface
and green algae scum reflects
the shopping centre wall.

in Sinai's wilderness
millennial marks record
an ancient nomad's passing.

Norway's virgin forest,
first and pines and snow,
is primal, untouched, pathless.

but here by the new pond
trees are planted,
rushes trained upright,
paths swept,
grass mowed,
edges neatly clipped,

fallen leaves daly blown away,
and never crackle under food.

North Carolina, 2006

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