

## NORTH SEA OIL

Paddy Hughes

North  
in a codless sea  
sheaves of steel straw  
tied at the top  
with nests of glittering deck  
suck blackly  
drink history

Sea  
in a ruthless night  
lines of gigantic horses  
foam from the lip  
down flanks of a million mirrors  
aflare with gold  
muck and brass

Oil  
in an empty sea  
husks of rusty rig  
flaked by frost  
skeletons of wind singing  
a grey dirge  
the urge gone