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JAKE DENNIS

Landscape

on Lindsay Edward's *Untitled, Central Australian Landscape with Waterhole (1980)*

From above, from the wind, from the black eyes of a bird
the splatter of paint gives little but the distance of paint
an indistinguishable herd of innumerable trees, brown
blotches of forests, streaks of green, and the gold scrape
of sand kindling the canvas, igniting the land,
centred by the off-centre slit of blue in between.

From below, from within, from a koala's heavy eyes
half-closed as she crushes eucalypts in her paws to taste
the solid remnants of rain, the heat from rocks is hotter
than the hot sun. A lizard on ochre dust and burnt bark
flicks his blue tongue, and the bushwalker, sweating flies,
snapping twigs, crackling leaves underfoot, kisses the water.

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