

An Apple Tree Watches The Inconstant Gardener

This tree
constrained between
greenhouse and shed
shares notes with them both
about the constant inconstancy
of the man who lives
in the house at the end
of their safe shielded plot.
How he watches longingly
throughout the seasons,
though he will turn green
before his fingers follow.
Nevermind.
Trees are not so shallow
and the red green harvest
given freely each year
marks out more than
the passing of time.
He gratefully accepts
each one as a tiny
dewdrop on the nose of joy.

Harry Gallagher