

1998

Satori in Viterbo

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Recommended Citation

Forbes, John. "Satori in Viterbo." *The Iowa Review* 28.3 (1998): 22-22. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.S047>

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SATORI IN VITERBO

*Ken Bolton's approach to poetry
makes any theory of performance
collapse and all serious critical
analysis impossible*
—Dorothy Green

Let's make a theory of performance
collapse!
Pegged out on the road,
too old in our T shirts & jeans
too young in our suburban respect . . . "Hey, that's Art!"
"Non respirare" the Italian
X-ray technician sang
& "Don' breathe" the wardsman
whose brother lived in Melbourne
repeated like a chant
 & I didn't,
stunned by the mountains
I could see out the window EXACTLY LIKE
the ones they told us were "only schematic"
in early Renaissance painting.
 That's when I knew
ALL ART IS LITERALLY TRUE
& all serious critical analysis
has the status of a dumped Mini Cooper
pushed out of the bus
in the penultimate triumphal scene
of Michael Caine & Noel Coward's
THE ITALIAN JOB, smashing down the precipice
& bursting into flames,
finally coming to rest in the snow
thousands of feet below.