THE READING MIND

for Alan Halsey

unjustly neglected poet

at the interface

where words make a home

innovative pluralism

revisiting the reading mind

blank verse finely balanced

private magic and punning

negotiated iconography

a blueprint for writing

an emergency medic

slapping a numbed patient

to bring the blood back

mind skims over the lyric

troubled questions held

as a catalogue of errors

short circuited texts

many small fragments

a guerrilla makeover

look again at the surface

the convolved whole

not the eccentric finish

we're talking about poetry

forced out through language

thinking unlike any other

scattered contexts

cycles of quotations

outside formal questions

process swallowed up

changing the nature of closure

and the idea of an ending

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