

Section of right hand panel from Mural for the kitchen of McCahon's Titirangi home photograph © McCahon Trust.

## Paradise Diptych

*by* Tessa Sinclair Scott *from* DREAM HOUSES (Kelsay Books, 2019)

Peeled off McCahon's kitchen wall, carried through the wet green of French Bay, the Paradise Diptych hangs on brass-link chain, from bolts dug deep in twelve-foot stud. Over a square of monkish blue, Adam grazes Eve's swerving curves their necks stretched, they gaze up at the scumbled sky, ready to cast their net wide and catch four little birds between them.

## NOTES

This poem was inspired by the 'Mural for the kitchen of McCahon's Titirangi home', 1952. The painting, which was acquired directly from McCahon's French Bay home (now the McCahon House museum) by my father in the early 1960s, still hangs over my parents dining room table. I grew up staring at this picture as we ate our dinner, and I always thought it was my Mum and Dad in their garden in Auckland, which was a kind of paradise for us four kids (the four little birds from the poem).

Originally the painting formed the inside cladding of the McCahon kitchen wall — my Dad and his friend Frank removed the work in two pieces, lashing them securely on top of their car with ropes, then plugging up the space left by the wiring and light switch with a slap of brown paint, which you can see in the photo above.

Small but important Print: If you are using this for educational purposes, please consider using a device rather than printing. You may have received this poem because you supplied your email address to Tessa Sinclair Scott's Tiny Letter Subscription Service. You may also receive updates every so often about upcoming publications and readings and other poetry goings ons. Of course, I hope we stay in touch, but you are free as a bird to opt out anytime!