

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 respirire" 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.