David Campbell Prize:
Winner: ‘A Migrant Writer on a Bus (Thinking of Kundera)’
Dr Danijela Kambaskovic-Sawers

A Migrant Writer on a Bus (Thinking of Kundera)

The body crosses over quickly,
but characters stay behind
and roam ghosted streets.

Shuffling their feet,
they look for shops no longer there

and squabble urgently
in an inaudible language.

Should one make an effort
and force stories out

or allow the body to just sit,
invisible,

amidst its irrelevant geography
and enjoyable clutter,

and let the imagination
migrate at its own pace,
a language an eon?

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The outward gaze
comparing tree shapes to remembered trees
colours of landscape to imprinted colours

drinks from surrounding faces
to quench old thirsts
kindle new tastes

the invisible parallels unfurl
to tape-measure the distance
between us and us
between home and home.