David Campbell Prize
Commended: Isi Unikowski (ACT) – ‘At the Broinowski Gate’.

**At the Broinowski Gate**

A busload of adolescents and bureaucrats trading frisbees
dispel the parterre’s formality; the design emerges
only when they leave: the determined little lights
for the older varieties, then, in longer times
some climbers and the flash of floribunda;
a tennis court behind its arbours.

An autumnal gust turns the light adamantine.
The afternoon’s corners curl like an old photograph’s.
For a moment, it’s 1931: great squares
summon a million minds to their peristyles
of hatred, the careless throngs
approach history’s ramparts

but that “thin, querulous fellow” sees,
laid out in the paddocks’ blank hansom,
spread before the hills’ dusty asperities
a hedged, a reticent exhilaration:
procedures laid out,
protocols bedded down,
etiquette clasped in green sepals
the carmine calyx unfolding
at a subscribed nation’s heart.