

**Paul Brookes**

**A Red Bus**

rainmaker shakes.  
bargain passengers.

Blood drills down

swooned stone walls.  
Up above birds pickaxe isobars.

Vintage pear trees boombox  
Jeroboam milked earth.

## Gunned Growl

tinted windows souped up  
black Minis in a girls laughter  
of empty frozen car parks  
at close of a retail park day,  
hammer down the by pass.

Mouse skitters between  
soft drink and alcohol aisles.

Rat shadow climbs  
out of your eye corner,  
freezes a grey slab  
of tail in bus stop light,  
snatches at brown burger wrap.

## Margins

Frost formats fences, branches.  
White margins widen.

Spoor scribble, claw note,  
pad pattern cryptic comment

on barkskin limbs.  
White space for animal texts

on scavenge for scarce morsels  
ferret for warmth.

## Skin Whispers

open a whirr of waves,  
a shore of tick tock shells

inland cows moan orgasms  
to blades  
battered with nagged light.

## Cobbler

My tip is stitched  
to the vamp  
and outside of her

My vamp covers  
sides of this foot  
these toes.

Shank part of my sole  
between me as a heel  
and the other having a ball

The throat of my vamp curves  
around the lower edge of the top  
where I get a lacing.

My vamp shields me  
from the lacing  
and the weather.