

A Blue Offering

Ask yourself this: what's the colour of a jacaranda in bloom?

A kind of blue, some would say.
A mauve prison, he would explain.

Blue was a pause born in the shadows of a marvellous scandal.

A pretty shade of despair.
A flicker of danger before the flame.

He discarded youthful things to make more time for sleep.

Blue is not a number, he said, but a note.
A fret slide. A flat five.

His hands became maps: patterns of rearranged concepts.

Blue is an electronic city, he said, and a grassy knoll.
Blue is a structure, crystallised and melting.

'A Blue Offering' was written in response to Marcus Skipper's sculpture 'Portrait of Alan Marshall', 1995.

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