

Gymnastics

I was right to come to Paris
Though Antwerp was much cheaper
After five years as an artist
My experience runs deeper

Théo tried to stop me from coming here too soon
With a palette dark and sombre
Can I live outside my Dutch 'cacoon'?

But now I'm using colour like never before
In a series of studies of flowers
Red poppies, myosotis, chrysanthemums and
roses
Seeking life in the true drawing: modelling with
colour

I practise in gymnastics
Trying hard to render intense colour
Not grey harmonies
Opposites in their splendour

Blue with orange, Red with green
Yellow with violet, Harmonise brutal extremes

I practise in gymnastics
With energy I started but
here I am struggling
For life and progress in art

In Antwerp I would wonder
what impressionists are
And now that I've seen them
There are many I admire

The landscapes of Monet
The nude figures of Degas
Lautrec brilliant and funny
Others a little stranger

THÉO has this woman
We'll call her 'Madame S'
Her mind is not quite right
THÉO's life is in a mess
I'll take her off his hands
I'll marry her if I have to
I'll do it for my brother
It's the least I can do
If social deceases are all we can afford
At least I'm using colour like never before

I'll stay here with my flowers
I'll stay here with my brother
Seeking life in the true drawing
Modelling in colour

But I practise in gymnastics
Trying hard to render intense colour
Not grey harmonies
Opposites in their splendour

I'm making swift progress
Wrinkles, a tough beard
A number of false teeth
This dirty profession is hard

But I practise in gymnastics
And in the hazy distance
The chance of making pictures
With lost youth and great freshness
With gymnastics
Yes gymnastics
And in the hazy distance
The chance of making pictures
With lost youth and great freshness

