

Absolute Japan

My life will become more like a Japanese
painter
Living close to nature like a petty
tradesman
You can't study Japanese art
and not be so much happier
I must return to nature and defy all
convention

If the weather is always fine
We'll have absolute Japan
Start a colony of artists
I'll get Bernard and Gauguin

We'll all exchange work
like the Japanese once did
A cooperative of painters
We will share expense and profit

We admire German musicians
and Greek sculptures
French novels are
beyond the reach of one

But by groups of us combining
With an ideal held in common
Our faith the silver lining
A renaissance in the sun

Do you not feel this thing that is greater
than we are?
That its life will last longer than ours?
If we believe in this new art
and the artists of the future
Our faith will not cheat us with its powers

If the weather is always fine
We'll have absolute Japan
We'll have an eye more Japanese
Feeling colour like I feel the sun
Our own academy
An 'Impressionist Society'
We'll rise up in the country
The movement has begun!
I said the movement has begun!

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