New Land

Kobus Moolman
University of the Western Cape, South Africa
jmoolman@uwc.ac.za

(for Adam Small 1936–2016)

Black mountain silence.
Broken land
without breath.

Three thin white trees.

A woman with a rock on her back
where her baby used to be.

*Bare river panting.
Steep sky
without air.

Three thin yellow dogs.

A man with a rusted spade
where his hand used to be.

*Old words undefeated.
Old songs
without any rest.

Three thin blue chimes.

A child with a torch in its mouth
where the long night used to be.