

Planting Gardens

(For Jocelyne)

Michaelmas daisies, so common
they grow any place in the fields,
but she had them there, there,
everywhere clumped in her garden
because, as she said,
they are so beautiful.

Honeysuckle in bloom
that October, and when we
asked how, she mimed plucking
its finished blossoms six hours
one day with faith
that new flowers would follow.

She had a gardener's patience.
Against death dressed in clichéd black
remember her speaking French,
those three or four words on a tape
played back in the spin
of a week of media elegy,

one word caught back
from the wrap of voice-over
cover, pronounced in accurate
facets, l'éducation,
leading forth, lead us forth
to plant gardens.

P. Sanger.