
MEETING KATHERINE MANSFIELD

Long ago, there was an artist so skilful
that, when he painted a bowl of peaches,
hungry birds flew down to his canvas
and pecked at the fruit.

I am not a bird, but I remember
when I was young,
standing on the fifth floor of Te Papa
in front of a picture of Katherine Mansfield.
We looked at each other for a while
and then – although she was behind glass
and it was against the rules –
I reached out to touch
her face with my fingers.

Tim Upperton



Meeting Katherine Mansfield

by Tim Upperton

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