

Alan Catlin – Three Poems

Christine Byrne: Steel and Glass (green) Isolated# 1, in the Poison Garden, Blarney Castle Grounds

Ring of black painted
steel isolates green glass

masks inside a poison
garden: Nightshade and

Bella Donna, assorted herbs
and leaves, harmless by

themselves, but mixed into
potions, fatal brews.

Green tragedy masks hang
inert on taut wires, oversee

the neat herb rows.
Who are the herbs for?

Christine Byrne: Isolated #1: Steel and Glass

Blarney Castle gardens,
herbaceous borders, rose

arbor: the yellow, pinks
and red. Ferns and lotus

arrangements, dolmens,
megaliths, washed stones

eons old. Byrne sculpture:
long black steel rods with

thick blown glass: green
masks, faces, grim as nightshade.

Strange arrangements amid
so much natural beauty.

The War Memorial in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin

Barbed wire wrapped
around a tree in a room

of memorial plaques
for those killed in

innumerable wars
throughout the centuries

this cathedral has stood
in Dublin: the starkness

of simple images recall
Beckett, world ending

moments; we can't go on,
we go on.

Alan Catlin has published well over seventy chapbooks and full-length books since the early 80's. His most recent full-length poetry books are *Asylum Garden: after Van Gogh* from Dos Madres and *Lessons of Darkness*, Luchador Press.