

Golden Point Award 2023
English Poetry – Honourable Mention
Bird hide 11 by Ho Kin Yunn

On some southernmost
island bearing resin
sealed columbarium, there is

a city via pipes and within it
a reserve and within
that a bird hide

it manoeuvres you, look, expecting
some distilled view of wildlife
prepared by vendors on overtime, but

it's only leaves and
more holes: a fricative found
-sight, a bird hide view

of granite bronzed, crags and designer lilypads, primary and secondary
forest at a
1:3 ratio, brush piles, sprinkling of water soldiers, blankets of reeds,
deadfall with
calculated rot for the sunda pygmy woodpeckers, duckweed and pretty
signage for

the children's education
but nothing that allows
for chaos or hiding in its

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etymological sense

nothing that suggests

true in-nature-ness

then the students arrive

with borrowed binoculars

to learn outside their

classrooms within

structures unchecked, curriculums set

by uniformed uninformed

the first lessees of

humanity's allotment -

paid for and gradually neglected