

Woman

An achiever at school
she studies plays hard
thinks things through.
Unties the shackles of home
falls in love, yet keeps
an open space in which to grow.

She hears her children's cries
but leaves them to their nanny.
Supports the opera season
though tickets may lie unused.

She climbs
the corporate ladder
commands respect
is generous with praise
sees the big picture
as well as the detailed plan.

With co-ordinated clothes
she prepares for all occasions.
In her smartest shoes
she steps confidently
across the boardroom floor.

Dorothy Bransgrove

Published in *Poetry Monash*, No 51, 1997

Grey Box

Spread across plains
baked hard
by summer's heat,
grey trunks, grey limbs,
grey leaves, shade
animals and birds.

We accelerate
production,
flood pastures
from man made dams.
Exasperated soil
turns saline.

A tree dies
contorted limbs fall,
skeletonised
trunks remain.
A monument to
man's mismanagement.

Dorothy Bransgrove

Published, *Poetry Monash*, No52, 1997.

Marketing Power

I watch tennis on the big screen
toss memories of Evonne, Margaret
demure in white.
Now black is chic, necklines plunge,
fashion is flamboyant.

Players articulate the scene
hit and bawl as they bend,
fans high on stands
raise a racket for teenage idols.

Micro-minis grip lithe legs
bare arms slice sideline shots,
chains, earrings, beaded braids
spiral with each lunge.

On this market minded catwalk
glamour gives players power.

Dorothy Bransgrove

Published in *Poetry Monash*, No 53, 1998

I Try So Hard

I'm Florence Nightingale
without the white cap
I do try hard
but I have mishaps.

I'm a whiz at jellies
but the custard burns,
beds never look right –
to tuck, I must learn.

My pillows deflate
when they should fluff up,
I try to be sympathetic
but my nature is abrupt.

I urge visitors to stay
when the patient needs sleep
I stumble and disrupt
when I should silently creep.

If blood appears
there's cause for complaint
this hopeless nurse
falls in a dead faint.

Dorothy Bransgrove

Published in *Poetry Monash*, No 60, winter 2000