

## “Turban”

Sometimes, in the Brueghel paintings, the children who are skating  
hold perfectly  
Still for a moment; I could have counted them there, if I wanted to.  
Or a boy  
Has just fallen out of the sky, & no matter how hard the water is  
the splash

On the canvas is always silent, & can only grow more so. And the  
water rising  
For centuries around the boy is famous only for the little silence it  
displays.  
The way the paint is cracked slightly on the canvas is meant to  
remind you

That this is, after all, only a painting. In which Brueghel has  
destroyed time.  
And Rembrandt, smiling at this, still has to put his house up for  
sale before  
He can paint another self-portrait. This time he is St. Paul with a  
wry turban

On his head! There is a kind of forgiveness in it all. He looks as if  
he is  
About to smile, but he does not, & then after a few moments it  
looks as if  
He will never smile again. The turban is the dirty white of a  
popular beach.