

## In This Moment

Polly Scattergood

Off-white walls, pale blue skirting  
The light green speckled floor squeaks  
As people rush past from one moment to the next  
These sounds become more familiar  
Hums, bleeps, whirrs, and sadness

I'm hungry  
The plastic chair in front of me is slightly stained  
I wonder how many people have sat in that chair  
Staring at the clock, then the ceiling  
Then the floor, the wall, then back to this ceiling

There is no sunshine on this ceiling  
This ceiling is cold  
The strip lighting shows every line and wrinkle  
Every twinkle of fear, every harsh reality of life  
Laid out naked for every stranger to see  
Not that anyone cares to look too deep  
There is a polite distance behind people's eyes

The small TV in the corner is playing Channel Two  
Crackling occasionally whilst the aerial balances precariously on top of it  
Even the aerial wants to die in this place  
Fall into the abyss of milky green vinyl flooring  
Never to be seen again  
What an unromantic way to go  
To get swept up and thrown out  
With all of the other inane mechanical objects we don't need

I like to think all broken machines end up in the North Pole  
Where some magical man finds them in the snow  
Fixes them up lovingly, polishes every scar  
Tightens every screw and then as good as new  
They are ready to be packaged and distributed  
Throughout all major territories by winter  
Only to get ripped apart on Christmas Day  
By a six-year old with a marker pen  
I was that kid  
I liked to watch the cogs turning under the plastic cover  
Rather than marvel at the pretty lights on the surface  
Those lights that took so long to perfect  
In that magical snowy haven far away from here

I stop feeling every so often, I am told this is normal  
Even the art makes me feel empty  
Prints of perfect trees with perfect leaves in emerald green  
And lined up imperfectly across sickly lemon yellow walls  
Directly in front of me an abstract painting  
Of a woman holding a small child in her arms  
Somebody clearly did not think this through

Channel Two is still playing in the corner of the room  
It seems the rest of the world is still carrying on as normal  
Is it just me here in this moment?