


9-12-2018

Study View

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Recommended Citation / Citation recommandée

Youngs, Tim. "Study View." *The Goose*, vol. 17, no. 1, article 28, 2018,

<https://scholars.wlu.ca/thegoose/vol17/iss1/28>.

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Study View

Beyond the gap
between the two

houses opposite—
with their satellite

dishes, lichen
roof-tiles, solar

panels, black
PVC downpipes

grey asbestos
garage roofs

and net-framed
trampolines—

past the wheat
waiting to be cut,

past the shrub-
covered fence,

telephone poles,
hedged-in paddock,

and track-crossed
sloping pasture,

there at the wood's
edge the farmhouse

and its outbuildings
all shortly to be sold

now that the farmers
are retiring, handing

over the ancestral
plot. Their grown-up

children prepare
to break the line.

TIM YOUNGS is professor of English at Nottingham Trent University in the UK and has published many critical studies of travel writing. His poems have appeared in several magazines, including *The Interpreter's House*, *Magma*, *Poetry Salzburg Review* and *Staple*. His debut pamphlet, *Touching Distance*, was published by Five Leaves in November 2017.