

Two Birds

Two Birds on each of these two
cards from you
blue -tacked to the wall above
my writing table.

On torn-edge Japanese hand-made wood-paper
flecked with gold
two big-winged black tipped wild geese are caught in perfect mid flight
asymmetry on the blue
getting there.

And yet there's effort in it too,
The master artist does not deny it
-as on this cracked valentine we found at the market stall,
all lovey-dovey

these two conventional circa nineteen-ten blue birds,
one with flower one with billet-deux above linked hands entwined
through hearts, a pretty ditty about Constancy
that made us smile.

Hearts are not
Pretty frames for anything,
All Rococo forgetmenots of cloying Edwardiana.
They're raw and red
They jump, we know they do.
I say still;
birds can be airmail blue
And hearts can be true.

Poetry – Liz Lochhead
Music – Catriona Price