

Pleading Guilty

by Maria Grech Ganado

I avoid you, Elsewhere!
I am not there and age can be a good excuse
for something one can't bear –
I listen to birds chirp
protest at trees chopped down
and stone erected here where you are not.

It's almost winter
but climate change ignores the months –
I worry how it will treat my children and their children
only eventually
I wonder only abstractly what they'll learn of history and of blood
while those of others are bombed.

Walking in sunshine or snug indoors
I avoid you
and relegate you to the safe box I can switch off,