



Mark Farrell

## The Gardener as Artist

He puts some bagged soil in a wheelbarrow  
 I use a pick on some clay  
 (He's two heart attacks old  
 to my twenty years)  
 He sifts out the rocks as  
 I stir in the clay with a shovel  
 He sifts it for smaller rocks and pours in Perlite  
 (puffing in  
 chalk-white clouds)  
 I blend them all and there it is:  
*supersoil*:  
     black brown red and replete with stars.

All ready now for a poem.

Who will help *me*  
 when I  
 am older?

You?  
 I doubt it.  
 But who will help you?  
 Me?  
 Ha!

---

Mark Farrell, a Canadian from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, now lives in Prague, where he teaches at Charles University. His work has appeared most recently in *Markings* (Scotland), *Third Wednesday* (Michigan), and *Wascana Review* (Canada). Publications that will include his work in future include *Envoi* (Wales), *The Ugly Tree* (England) and *Stand Magazine* (England).