Martin Robertson

Macrocosm

Look up into the night, but not to extend divine order spun from the thoughts of men. The dry moon hangs, skull to a Magdalen, a mirror to the earth of beauty's end. Among those sparklers, set like frozen spray, are some as cold: all their mutations done, their spectral light's a lesson to the sun on what attends an incandescent day. The star-swarms, the vast-wheeling galaxies, dwindle to pin-points in speed-gathering flight from a lost centre: seeming to press back dimension's imperceptible boundaries, lose one another in the widening black. Look down into your life and know the night.

This poem is reprinted from Now and Then, the website devoted to the poetry of Martin Robertson, at http://rtnl.org.uk/now_and_then/