

Looking after our environment

On November 6th, 2023, two Just Stop Oil protesters smashed the glass on the Rokeby Venus by Diego Velázquez at the National Gallery in London, they were later arrested

A moment sounds out,
the thwack of the hammer and the crack of the glass
shattering the stagnant peace of the gallery
with the cacophony of a million splintered views
the battle lines are drawn

Just stop Oil cry out for justice
echoing the stirring voices of the Suffragettes
"It is time for deeds, not words.
It is time to Just Stop Oil."

They stand tall, resolute
defiant Cassandras
implacable, vowing to march on

Rage erupts and bursts
VANDALS
spewed black across the newsrooms
DEATH CULT
over the talk show radio waves
FANATICAL, FRANKLY DANGEROUS
spilling out into the gladiator arena of social media
NIHILISTIC, IDEALISTIC, FATALISTIC
where threats swell and stir
brûler les chats

In a deafening chorus of
ferocious condemnation,
the mob roars
for pillory and payment
Demanding the punch force of justice
as the righteous defenders of beauty and civility

and the paid-for commentators, the news magnates,
and the endless stream of think tanks and oil companies
amplify the cries for
punitive punishments
and the judiciary jumps to obedience

A picture in a gallery is saved
protestors swept away
and there's muted silence as the world burns
and the doomsday clock ticks closer to midnight
but as they say,
They are just looking after their environment

Helen Mosley