

## The Point

VIVIAN SMITH\*

A man is taking photos of himself,  
first on a seat, then on a rock shelf.  
My dog runs off to sniff and roll around.  
A couple yesterday approaching: 'Please,  
whole city, both of us and Opera House',  
much bowing, nods and smiles. Such politesse.  
Near them, a poinsettia in bloom.

Today the scene is mine and mine alone.  
My dog tries to dismiss a local bird.  
The seat commands its panoramic view:  
the city sprawling round its curving bays,  
the harbour stretching like a placid lake.  
A yacht appears and then drifts idly by.  
And I see petals flaring against blue  
and windows in the water and the sky.

\* *Vivian Smith recently retired from the position of Reader in the Department of English. He is an established Australian poet.*