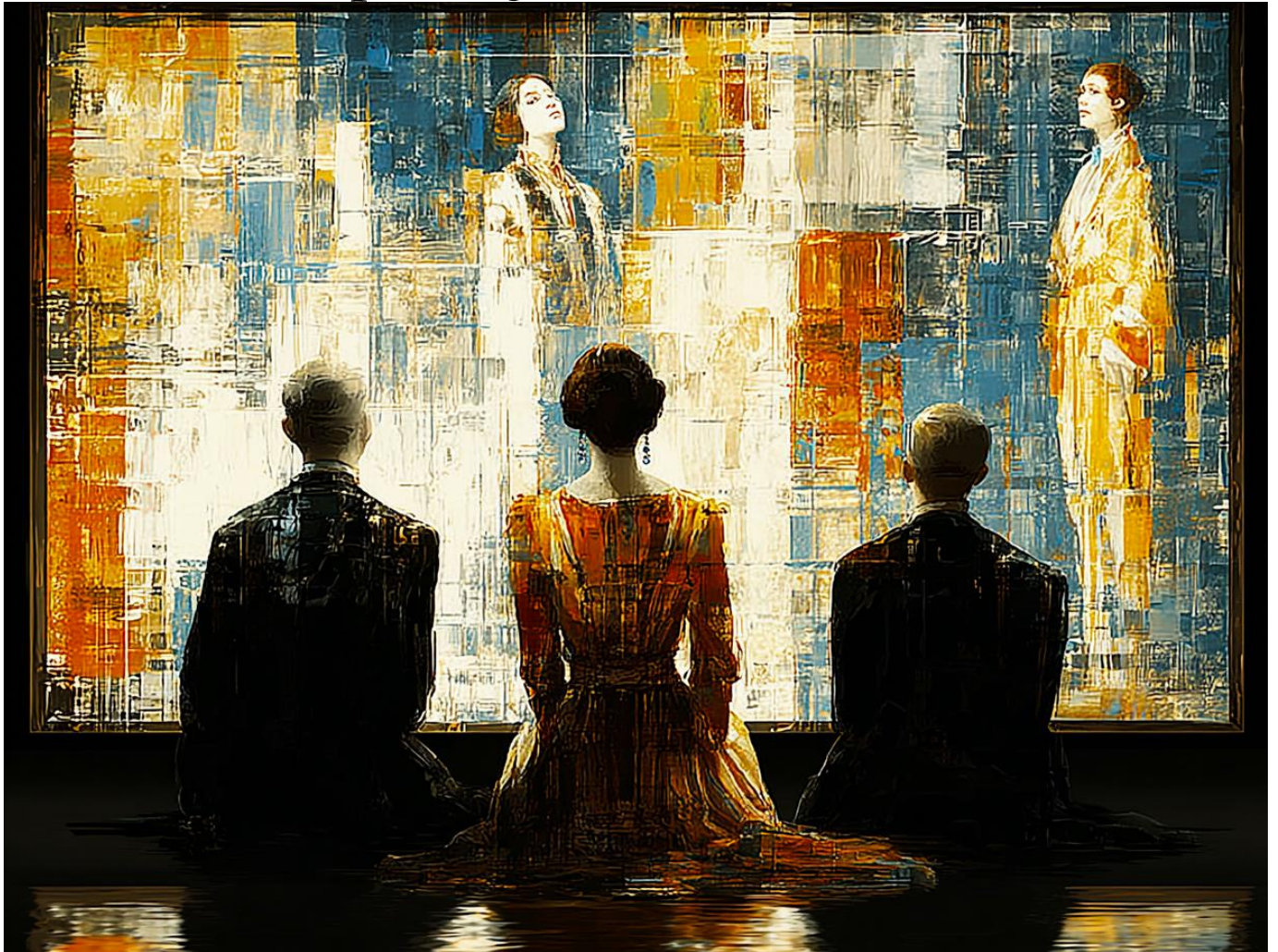




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VISITATION

A poem by Patrick Bradshaw



2026 Broadside Series

VISITATION

Tonight it is good
to be an old uncle
in a noisy house
full of kids and dogs
that barely know me.

fists with a little girl
who smiles and runs away
then quality time
with an anxious beagle
who just wants a scratch
and a face to lick.

They will both forget me
by the time they get home.

The wind blowing in off the lake
has no favorites.

The shadows
that sit thick in the corners
are just the dark
doing its thing.

Sounds of laughter
coming up the chimney
meet the light from the
large Magellanic Cloud
just above the mossy roof.



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ABOUT THE WRITER:

Patrick Bradshaw's poems have appeared in *Touchstone*, *The Mountain Troubadour*, *Smoky Quartz*, and *Portrait of New England*. He lives in southern New Hampshire with his wife.

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