

THE OMNIPRESENT

by Simon Armitage

I saw 'GOD IS AN AMBULANCE'
splashed in red paint
on a motorway bridge,

pictured the Lord
as a mobile chapel
in lemon and lime,

had visions of seraphs
in cargo trousers
and practical shoes,

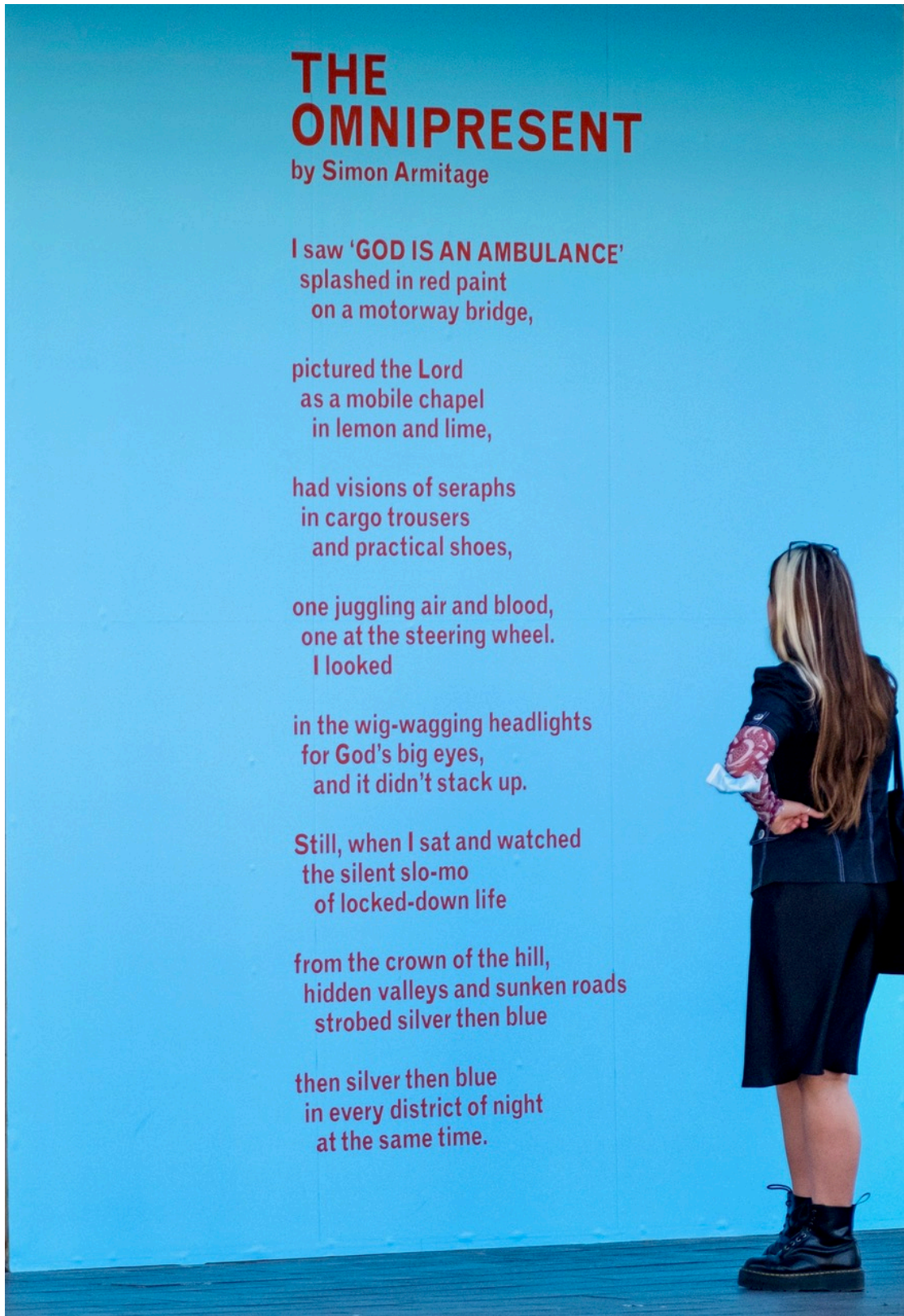
one juggling air and blood,
one at the steering wheel.
I looked

in the wig-wagging headlights
for God's big eyes,
and it didn't stack up.

Still, when I sat and watched
the silent slo-mo
of locked-down life

from the crown of the hill,
hidden valleys and sunken roads
strobed silver then blue

then silver then blue
in every district of night
at the same time.



Installation view of Simon Armitage's 'Omnipresent' at Southbank Centre's Everyday Heroes (on until 7 November 2020). Photo credit, Linda Nylind. Used courtesy of Southbank Centre.

Text view of poem overleaf.

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