

Janet Kofi-Tsekpo
The Wilton Diptych

The white hart's neck, divided
by crown and chain, merges again
with the gold sky, his head floating

above his body, the grass
near black in its midnight greenness.

The lion is fading now, his head
disappearing behind
the cracked canvas, though his tail

is strong. A deep red seeps
through the egg tempera.

Yellow Iris

– sun's forgotten eye,
blinded,

hanging out
of earth's socket;

odourless
fen-filler,

corn crake feeder,
remedial beekeeper.

Self-seeding
invader

lining the riverbank,
swords high

under white heat.
Compass rose

at the margins,
flying the flag –