

## Shrinking Back

We once conquered this world  
and blithely defined our own  
borders and land masses.  
We naively drafted maps,  
argued and fought over  
who belonged where,  
and kept redrawing them -  
when it didn't suit our purpose.

Now the world has claimed  
itself back and redraws  
its own patterns.  
Daily maps of this globe  
get covered in silent  
circles of viral spread- like  
blotting paper marked  
in contagious red ink.

This did not need to happen,  
but it has. Lines get redrawn  
by the earth itself, as more  
borders close each day.  
Some now even bar their own  
citizens from a return to home -  
or isolate them in lockdown.

It's becoming a world where  
rite of passage may need new  
types of passports and visas.  
Airline fleets lie stranded  
on runways - patterned crosses

on airfield graveyards.

We're unsure when they might  
fly again - or if they ever will.

Perhaps the globe never really  
wanted us to fly - but we  
imagined it and simply did.

What do we now need to see  
that our humanness cannot?

*Craig O'Flaherty 2020*