

Stephen Morrissey / FIRST SNOW STORM: Han-shan

as tho the world had become this
had become the wind

and the wind contained nothing
but snow

the snow that sticks
to the windows

is as good as any poem Han-shan ever wrote
it is a cold day

and the cold pierces to the heart

in china the songs of Han-shan are sung
by the children

the first snow
is like the sound of children singing

if it keeps snowing like this
maybe we'll stay home

and study Han-shan's poems

maybe we'll study the patterns
the snow leaves on the windows

or do some painting
it is good for the heart

to paint
or to read the poems of Han-shan

better than reading
buddhist sutras