

Red Waistcoat

The ewe has unbuttoned her woollen coat
along her sternum to display the scarlet

lining. Her organs are pinned inside,
hot watches. Magpies have seized her eyes

to try out her gaze. It's a social occasion: kites,
buzzards and their crow companions – anatomy students all –

descend, to attend, in raked seating, Dr Tulp's
dissection at the Guild of Surgeons, raucous but taking in

every detail and especially craving fat globules
like amber beads concealed on her person.

Gwyneth Lewis