Anchoress

Closed within a breath
her sin
a countryside hollow of moss
her fingers close round
the Book of Hours held open on her lap

margins
full of flowers
prayers and swirls
she plays its music in the mind
in the keep of her heart
crisp her heart cold colder than
the blackest medieval night
grey outside in
where owls and moon
wander in
the blackest
garden

green arches holly oak beech take you with her to the centre

the heart that never stops to the garden that closes round around her heart and yours and takes us to
that beat at its very centre where the roses and the sacred arts and the woman looking out at the
winter that has gone with the whitest snow turns to her new manuscript begins to script the notes
black upon its stave l’amour
l’amour de moi

L’Amour de Moi, usually translated as ‘My Lady’s Garden’, a C15 French Chanson.

Biography
Julie Sampson's poetry is widely published, most recently, or forthcoming, in Shearsman, Molly Bloom, Allegro, Dawnreader, Ink Sweat & Tears, The Journal, Noon, Poetry Space, Algebra of Owls, The Lake and Amethyst Review. Her work has been shortlisted or placed in several competitions, including erbace, Wells Festival of Literature Poetry Competition and The Page is Printed. Her poetry collection Tessitura was published, in 2014 (Shearsman Press) and a non-fiction manuscript was short-listed for The Impress Prize, in 2015.
See https://www.juliesampson.com/

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