“Portrait of a Dragon” by Moira Andrew

If I were an artist

I'd paint the portrait

of a dragon.

To do a proper job

I'd borrow colours

from the world.

For his back I'd

need a mountain range,

all misty-blue.

For spikes I'd use

dark fir trees pointing

to the sky.

For overlapping scales

I'd squeeze dye from

bright anemones.

I'd gild his claws

like shining swords

 with starlight.

His tail would be

a river, silver

in the sun.

For his head, the

secret green of forests

and deep seas.

And his eyes would

glow like embers in

a tinker's fire.

But I'd keep the best

till last. For his

hot breath

I'd use all reds and

yellows - crocus, saffron,

peony, poppy,

geranium, cyclamen, rose -

and fierce orange flames

from a marigold.

<http://www.excelsior-edu.org/showroom/user/1366971474034000042/gallery/b_1438596303333098064.jpg>