

Ho Chi Minh City, 2008

no McDonalds here.

the

only

Americans

I saw,

simulacrum of

Uncle **HO**,

palimpsests

.....pin -
pricked.....

.....t h r o u g h o u t

Saigon's *scooter* sanctum:

= KFC colonels.

the head, the beard,
the stare.

should have sent a regiment in the first place,

better chicken

than

dead

+++++

Tutuua Urupa, 2007

mud tracks
truck
through this

long
 over
grown

ragwort
 outside

the spindly
fence

we once painted

you lie
(inside)

quite deep down
 now

shrink-wrapped,

no way out,

hemo ki tenei ao:

but then,

you'd already
long gone,

eh e hoa

© Vaughan Rapatahana

Vaughan Rapatahana is a Kiwi living and working in Hong Kong. His home in New Zealand is Te Araroa, East Coast. This year his poems have appeared in *Takahe* and *Blackmail Press* and his poetry teaching series *English Through Poetry* came out in 2007.