

“She” Is Still an Object

Drape me in red
drape me in scarves and honey
and moons of other planets.

I'm indifferent as watermelon faking summer,
my meat for the taking.

The Painting Asher Made for Me Two Years Ago When I Started Hating High School

He taped the edges of his paper like
I taught him to do,
so when he scratched red watercolor
all over and called it finished,

the tape left a clean
border. Professional. Like a real artist.
His mother framed it
in red.

He presented it to me with two hands raised
and red cheeks. His eyes implored praise
and I gave it in my *gasp* and my, *Oh,*
it's so red.

I keep his painting on my shelf
as evidence that I
am capable of liking
the color red.

—Madeline Gerig



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