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## The Masterpiece

Barbara Armbruster  
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## The Masterpiece

Barbara Armbruster

The doughy white flesh  
of her shoulders  
spills over her blouse  
like rising bread.  
Blocking the aisle  
with her cart  
she muses aloud  
on the high price  
of organic tomatoes  
as a women in some other  
time and place  
might haggle  
over the gleaming freshness  
of the fish,  
the thumped ripeness  
of a melon.  
She needed only  
the painter who would  
pose her  
with a starched white cap  
sniffing a sprig of basil  
perhaps a little dog  
guarding the basket  
at her feet.