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Photographs Taken from the El in Chicago

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Photographs Taken from the El in Chicago

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I. "View from the Green Line, near Garfield Park"

Color C Print, Large Format with High Definition

The back of the leaning two-flat is framed
in the drapery of sheets and shirts hanging
straight over ropes pulled swag
from second-floor rail to razor-topped fence.

Junk on the ground so old it's invisible
to the black madonna and her disciple
sitting on the painted gray stairs.

Holding the workbook open on his knees,
the student of the West Side lifts a page
and catches the slanted illumination of the sun.

II. "Untitled"

Hand-colored Gelatin Silver Print

Homeless black man pointing to blood stain on pavement,
mouth gaped in silent horror,
gaped wide like a Greek thespian.
Plastic Walgreens bag clutched in right hand.
Blur of pedestrian in foreground.
Grey-tone everything, except blood, red.

III.

"Vessels"

After Man Ray

Black and White Photogram on Paper

Walking beside the cement columns
in the shade of the dirty tracks
your gaze angles up into bright sun.
Close your eyes for the reverse exposure
of a row of plastic bottles
all upturned on CTA fence spikes.
Opaque ghosts suspended in the dark sky.