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untitled

Michelle Helms

Touch tender the palm of my hand
 send spirals and flares running up my arm
 make breaths move each hair
 till shivers and feathers tie up my heart
 and warm summer kisses drop me
 head first
 into that colored place
 where silence is only
 the absence of birds and
 other small beings that sing

The Martyr Defense

Matt Kucik

You still seem wrapped
 up in who and what carried
 crosses
 a regular spectacular
 golgatha sideshow
 and insist I
 be 2 thieves at once
 you've got a spotlight
 on, your suffering
 and tell yourself
 keep telling yourself
 uniforms are sleeveless
 and martyrdom a defense
 Yesterday, I stumbled upon
 a bit of blood
 you speared from my side
 bottled it and sent it on
 because you crucified
 need all the blood
 you can get