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## Still Life

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*College of DuPage*

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## STILL LIFE

*Ann Marie Stotts*

1.

Ritual becomes routine.  
A woman today on a  
moving  
train applies Cover  
Girl and black mascara,  
a face piecemealed into,  
out of place.

2.

Miss America still cries  
into her roses. No raised  
fists as in football  
Sundays, inaugural speeches.

3.

The man in black,  
the man in white.  
Ties to the railroad  
tracks, gagged,  
she sees no one leaving,  
the train approaching,  
one running to finish  
the job. Her screams  
fill silent film.

4.

Circuses, carnivals,  
and magic shows.  
This woman sawed in half,  
this one still as a  
rabbit, knives thrown  
all around her. This  
woman watching.  
  
The woman and the elephant  
wear similar clothes,  
share tales untold.