

VALENTINA CANO

Domestic Miracles

Restarting a heart is not
a simple undertaking.
It's not folding napkins
or placing knives on the right side of plates.
It's not done by choosing wineglasses
without finger-spots like moles
or the echo of pressure drawn in cracks.
Restarting a heart is restarting a sun
with dishwasher eyes.

Super-Heroine Meets Reality

She is a woman of disasters.
She calls to them like flowers,
each with a necklace of unpronounceable names.
She pins each one to her chest,
thorns and spikes drawing lifelines on her skin.
Symbols that stretch across an entire night.

Route to a Disorder

The sky was a knife's blade over her.
The air pressed against her face
like a cloth,
dampening each breath,
making rivulets of her makeup.
She walked to a house
where buttons and light switches
stared back in silence,
where nothing but voices boiled.

She walked to the house,
wiping makeup off like blood.

Architectural Imprints

The stones still hold his breath
between their mortar veins.
They still remember his scalpel eyes
scraping them,
leaving that spot,
the one where he made the choice,
raw with his fall.

Valentina Cano is a student of classical singing who spends whatever free time either writing or reading. Her works have appeared in *Exercise Bowler*, *Blinking Cursor*, *Theory Train*, *Cartier Street Press*, *Berg Gasse 19*, *Precious Metals*, *A Handful of Dust*, *The Scarlet Sound*, *The Adroit Journal*, *Perceptions Literary Magazine*, *Welcome to Wherever*, *The Corner Club Press*, *Death Rattle*, *Danse Macabre*, *Subliminal Interiors*, *Generations Literary Journal*, *A Narrow Fellow*, *Super Poetry Highway*, *Stream Press*, *Stone Telling*, *Popshot*, *Golden Sparrow Literary Review*, *Rem Magazine*, *Structo*, *The 22 Magazine*, *The Black Fox Literary Magazine*, *Niteblade*, *Tuck Magazine*, *Ontologica*, *Congruent Spaces Magazine*, *Pipe Dream*, *Decades Review*, *Anatomy*, *Lowestof Chronicle*, *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *Lady Ink Magazine*, *Spark Anthology*, *Awaken Consciousness Magazine*, *Vine Leaves Literary Magazine*, *Avalon Literary Review*, *Caduceus*, *White Masquerade Anthology* and *Perhaps I'm Wrong About the World*. Her poetry has been nominated for Best of the Web and the Pushcart Prize. Her debut novel, *The Rose Master*, will be published in 2014. You can find her here: <http://carabosseslibrary.blogspot.com>