

2007

Catalog of Women (Slipstream, Schuykill Valley Journal)

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CATALOG OF WOMEN

Women without shoulders isosceles-like
pointing at depressions in the atmosphere

Sacrificial women falling apart
in great steaming broths

Women who overcome columns
who purchase note cards beneath
stuffed raptors at the Nature Center

Women who make up the inside of something

Seaside women cheating dashboards
and darting back down

Women working before they even get up
slaving with pickaxes in the
dream mines of sleep

Women on a bandwagon
to paint the ice white and sing
hymns to water moccasins

Engine women who crank and cog
in the spirit of having hooves

Castanet women handing out leaflets

Women testing speakerphones
unable to consume any more fruit

Women beating rugs next to the porch
while snow geese bob on the bay
thirty miles away

Women where there is no lack of fire hydrants

Row house women peering out of orange
postage stamp windows at dusk

Women one of whom says god
made trees to keep an eye on the wind

Radiant autopsy women in metal drawers

Women whose fingers are drowsy
who throw coals at the sound planes make
who neglect to arch their backs

Friends-of-the-library women who are enemies
of tetherball and necromancy

Warehouse women in prison
so we don't run out

Women shaped like keys busy with invitations

Evasive women who meet
at the lava fields at noon

and posthumous women who haunt the loading docks

and women made out of mica who are envied
by boys made out of string.