

15 Untitled Works in Concrete

by Michalle S. Gould

(1)

a tragic statue of two lovers at the moment
one turned away to look back at the sculptor

(2)

a tableau of the two
and the sculptor memorialized
at the point his art betrayed their love

(3)

a triangle of stones is empty at its center
implies an absent marriage rite
a beast still searches for its beauty

(4)

a tunnel adjoins two doors
they have forgotten
what lies behind them
they can not even remember
how to open

(5)

three boxes form a triangle facing outwards
each thinks it was the first
to turn its back upon the others

(6)

two concrete openings
arranged as if to kiss
two others look away
condemning

(7)

a stack of books
three: open, closed, and open
the first and last guard against unwanted knowledge

(8)

three girls sharing a secret
but each has kept some detail
to herself

(9)

three trumpets blow
as if to announce a birth, a death,
and spread a rumor about resurrection

(10)

Two pairs of mirrors
aligned to face each other
never know what is themselves
and what a reflection

(11)

a trio of witches
look over each other's shoulders
for a pot to stir

(12)

a row of beds
awaits six princesses
a seventh will have to sleep
upon the ground
thus starts the fairy tale
its moral yet unknown

(13)

six boxes lock
like links upon a chain
or children on a trip
afraid of getting lost
the teacher does not even have to ask
them to hold each other's hands

(14)

two lines of three:
rectangular openings
around walls
like frames for
nonexistent pictures
or pictures of a wall

(15)

six duellists stand
three pairs ranged in a column
back to back
forever unable to escape each other
as if themselves undecided as to what was worse:
losing or winning

Notes

This poem was inspired by Donald Judd's 15 Untitled Works in Concrete, which can be found at the Chinati Foundation in Marfa, Texas.

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