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## Ars Poetica

Anne Keefe

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ARS POETICA

Anne Keefe

I can't write about the Russian crack  
whore because what would I know  
and because, you'll laugh, I only  
saw her tonight, some girl in a movie.

It's just that when she's cleaned up,  
dressed, and her back's exposed  
under black silk, I remember again  
how young she is. Her muscles cover

over her bones with the heaviest gray—  
an artist's gum holding her body  
and the room, lifting mistakes  
as she climbs a thousand stairs.

In the garish shot, a casino scene,  
it's all I see, her skin: slender bulk  
and sinew then, underneath it and  
spiraling—memory not quite erased.