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## Canvas

Lori Anderson Moseman

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## Moseman: Canvas

CANVAS

Lori Anderson Moseman

There are eleven pears ripe for the picking  
on the tree on the black canoe's splayed skin  
on the gallery wall. A different kimono  
than one full of blossoms. Urgent.  
Now that we can't go fishing where water is  
over our heads, I'll borrow the hunter's ladder  
(deer won't mind) for my imaginary harvest<sup>prayer</sup>.  
The pear tree I planted was down to one leaf.  
Deer finished that. I water it nonetheless.  
The rootstock graft mark—high above dirt—  
laughs at me for not burying it (birds don't  
mind). Next year, if a plane does not crash  
in this Pennsylvania field, I'm planting flax  
for my patient loom, my impatient brush.

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<sup>prayer</sup> Dear Creator, if this tree lives to bear fruit, I will bring the first, best and last of its harvest to Cynthia Coulter ("Black Canoe with Pear Tree," Artists of the Mohawk Hudson Region. University Art Museum. Albany, NY: June 30-August 6, 2000)