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Ways of Writing about Rust

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Weyant: Ways of Writing about Rust

WAYS OF WRITING ABOUT RUST

Karen J. Weyant

Use a red pen. Push October's blood moon into every line.
Scribble down an old barn and a children's game of tag

that will end with a nail's scratch and tetanus shot.
Remember to cross all your t's.

Save the graffiti, the stick figures and sharp letters,
even if you are not sure if the words are a Bible verse,

or lyrics from an old rock-and-roll song.
Scrawl down corner bars and closed stores.

Trace the Z shape of fire escapes and half hearts
of coke ovens. Scribe the signs of girls who want boys

drunk with drivers' licenses and dares, boys
who drive through red traffic lights and railroad crossings, flashing,

and the mothers who teach their daughters to cut away,
but slice apples with knife blades coming toward them.

Pluck the jewels from Queen Anne's lace, throw away
the white blossoms, but keep the tiger lilies, the fields of sunflowers.

Never use a pencil. You won't want to erase.
But always proofread. Just cross out the spring trillium,

the first frost, bedsheets that bounce in the breeze.
Use every margin. Stencil the last railroad trestles,

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roadside mailboxes sealing shut,
a bicycle left out overnight, its spokes turning.