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Reliquary

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Reliquary

Kathryn Harlan-Gran

St. Valentine's skull is in Rome,
decked in flowers –
daisies for innocence,
pansies for remembrance,
gilded metal to keep prayerful fingers from touching.
Have you ever dreamed
that you were in love with yourself?
Thought that perhaps you,
too, might be a vestibule for the divine,
a temple to pagan gods,
demanding benedictions for
your collarbones, your hips,
the blades of your shoulders?
Since we have to go
I think that this may be the way to do it –
like royalty, like something
sacred, with prayers for love extending fingers
to touch us through the glass.