5-1-2019

Nevelson Box

Professor DeBoer's Sculpture I class

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Recommended Citation
Professor DeBoer's Sculpture I class (2019) "Nevelson Box," Calliope: Vol. 51 , Article 9. Available at: https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/calliope/vol51/iss1/9

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Those Hands I Have Not Familiarized With
Carolyn Lee

My father’s hands are coarse.  
They’re ash-black as if night 
ever met day, and if blackouts were the norm.  
My father’s hands are dry,  
dry from the work he does lifting heavy boxes and scanning barcodes that don’t come with moisturizer.  
My father’s hands are wrinkly.  
Those lines that outstretch outline a timeline that is beyond me.  
My father’s hands I have not touched—my place, robbed, by money and unrealistic, realistic priorities.  
My father’s hands do not need more hand sanitizer, but the vacation of a marble sink paired with the lather of a foam soap and scented with the sweet suds of a family meal.  
My father’s hands don’t tell time, but enforce it: time to leave home and time to work, only to darken those pairs once more.  
My father’s hands need lightening, and the touch of a longing daughter’s