

LIZZY PETERSEN

Exhibit

The neighbor's roof is a table for a headless fan.
Lopped all but the stem, an infantile camera
rests atop. What a bird.
This object does not have to travel great distances
just to look at me. Hush. Observe the bobbing
of its impractical neck.

In a museum, a security camera will rotate like a crane
takes a gander. "Utter," or "Udder," it squawks.
Cameras don't speak
English so good. They are Japanese.
The objects on exhibit know to behave, though.
Can sit straight.

Can shake on it. In spring, nothing but side-eyeing,
just as I do, repeatedly, at my neighbor's roof.
I astonish, I note:
these go sad. Like cans in a cupboard.
This lens is an *old* eye. A lonesome brain.
This stem is a bad brain.

LIZZY PETERSEN lives in St. Louis where she is the Managing Editor of *River Styx Magazine*, a lecturer, bookseller, and co-teacher of the Grand Boulevard Workshops at Gateway180: Homelessness Reversed. She holds an MFA in poetry from Purdue University, where she founded and coordinated the *You Are in Indiana Now* reading series. Her reviews have appeared in *Poetry*, *Sycamore Review*, and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

