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MARGO SWISS

Mary's Hands

for Mary Belka

Mary's hands are all
that are needed now.
Her voice and
lamb-like face
recede.
Hands alone
and only hers
become God's upon my shoulders,
now uncrossed,
perform their act of mercy
to transubstantiate my grief.

God's body once undone
became itself a burden
to be taken down
swallowed by death
yet rose;
so mine
world weary and torn
is hosted by one who
breathing Love in his Name
consumes my pain.

She is Mary
gentle tender of wounds
by whose strokes
I am healed

Margo Swiss's poetry appears earlier in this volume.