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## Fluoroscope of a Lady Dying

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Scaled to affect the cave — a synthesis  
In wax to paraphrase the patron bone.  
Yet a manikin's eye can't read what sentences

Of charts and pins define: his hide may disown  
The itch of parable in each indicant thread,  
His yellow sleep recall the ancestral stone

Whose science assures both tooth and arrowhead  
Its art's no incubation for the dead.

—CLIFFORD WOOD

## FLUOROSCOPE OF A LADY DYING

A lady lonely in her bones  
(Summoned late one afternoon  
By Principalities and Thrones)

Begs Hippocratic shamen stare  
On revelations of the screen.  
They see her ribs and buckles there;

See only ribs and beads and pins.  
Her self and her wild-winged surmise  
Show nowhere in their bulletins.

And tender courtesies of death  
Are much too tenuous to mark,  
Claiming that last astonished breath.

Wary lest they introduce  
Irrelevance of the unseen,  
They note: her bones have scattered loose.

—GEMMA D'AURIA