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## RENEE NORMAN

### Pandora's Boxes

you seem fixed on marriage  
kids & writing  
comments a young man  
in the margin of my essay

what else is there?  
i automatically think

why don't you try writing  
about Australian kick boxing  
he jokes  
& i (fixed)  
free-associate to the boxes in my basement  
pushed against the cold concrete  
full of flokartie rugs guitar chords  
a laminated poster from San Francisco:  
a willowy woman holds a broom as if it were a man  
the caption reads FUCK HOUSEWORK

how easy it is to pin women  
like old posters on household walls  
life's graffiti scrawled upon  
the lines that deepen with every laugh  
every kick at those boxes

as if they do not hold  
all we once were & have become  
as if the lids are not worth opening

no curiosity about our contents  
who will know  
Pandora lies naked  
preserved in plastic  
hidden in the folds of plush white rugs  
plucking F strings  
that strain male melodies

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