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LENORE WEISS

North Lake Merritt Bench Crone

Whenever you get there, she sits on her bench wearing a carved tree resin rose and beveled milk glass surrounded by a shopping cart and black garbage bag filled with acorns, eucalyptus leaves, her bandages of flesh,

whatever she finds gets stuffed into a special place of her hotch-potch pot, a crack pipe to catch the first sun, water bottles thrown at her feet after a three-mile run, souvenirs from a prior engagement

or for right now, as she works a crowd of seagulls squawking at her feet for their lack of pedicure, reaching into her bag to quickly silence one of the regulars,

as she collates night with day, biting each pair together until they stay