A Poem- Inspired by Alex Katz

Margaret Sargent
Colby College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine

Part of the Poetry Commons

Recommended Citation
Sargent, Margaret (2014) "A Poem- Inspired by Alex Katz," Colby Magazine: Vol. 103 : Iss. 1 , Article 15. Available at: https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine/vol103/iss1/15
My grandmother loses her past in pieces, like baby teeth, waking in the morning to find she’s swallowed her granddaughter’s name, her son’s wedding, her husband’s funeral.

At breakfast, she leaves her license embedded in a piece of melon, and before bed, she spits the front door key, bloodless, into the sink.

But nothing grows into the gaps, and she can only run her tongue over soft gums and wonder what’s gone.

She calls me by her sister’s name, looks at my face and sees my mother’s, reaches tenderly for the hand at the end of my arm.

And we all crowd in close, surround her with a family of thirty-two smiling strangers.

Margaret Sargent ’14 wrote this poem last year as an assignment in Introduction to Poetry. The project asked students to write ekphrastic poetry, work that collaborates with visual art, inspired by a piece of their own choosing in the Colby College Museum of Art. Audio of her recitation of the poem is online at colby.edu/mag.