

Stay Up Forever

Sonia Burns

Bedraggled swan, wings oiled, lost
china doll, porcelain contortionist
abandoned at five am.

Marionette, strings cut, smoke
sustained, belly empty
not pissed for days.

Heroin hobbled ballet dancer, skin
clammy with tachycardia,
face obscured, eyes shut,
Sphinx like, a sensuous smudge.

Lit up like a TV murder,
click shutter, teeth chatter.

Developed in bodily fluids,
set fast in opioid amber.

(Inspired by Nan Goldin's photograph, *Trixie on the Cot*).