



Janice Wilson Stridick

Afterward

List found on envelope:
collar too yellow
sharpen books, fingers

lift left cheek bone
add stem, petals
fix pink on ear, cheek

sign it. Journal entry:
it's just process
I can't see well

think—how to approach

*yes, that's it—terre verte,
green under all.*

A decade later,
in the dining room,
the portrait presides

by Grandmother's rocker,
Mother's ashes in crackle-green urn
atop china press.

On canvas, the pen erect,
collar a rich, creamy yellow—
books, fingers bold

left cheek shines
dogwood blooms through winter,
pinkening. Signed.

Janice Wilson Stridick has published in *Milk Money*, *Schuykill Valley Journal*, *The Monarch Review*, *Philadelphia Stories*, *Coachella Review*, *NY Arts Magazine* and in several anthologies. She lives in New Jersey.

Image: Winter Dogwood, by Oliver Johnston