



Sculpture by Nuntchi.

Martine Compton

Carnival Cancelled, This Town

And foolishly I thought
this time I would steer
Whom I loved.
Six-year let-down STOP
Opening night tomorrow STOP
Would read my telegram.

Dress rehearsal standup.
And all the pins, all the acrobats ready.
No-shows do not do, do not do,
for the pair of hands
that hold the ground in place,
white-roped and netted.

The crew believes:
Another day at the lake, before we pack on, now. She'll find a substitute.

And this emotion is far too pinnacle
to be friends with anger.
It is a twin's disappointment.

Martine Compton "is a Metro-Detroit-based writer and illustrator. . . . Ms. Compton has written verse, fiction, and essays for numerous publications as varied as *The Midwestern Worker* out of Chicago, and *Damazine: The Voice of the Arab World* out of Damascus, Syria. With her photographer husband she writes travel articles, most recently for the Beijing-based newspaper, *The Global Times*. An active member of the H.O.H. (Hard-of-Hearing) and Deaf Community, Ms. Compton sounds her voice to modernize global standards of living for the handicapable."