



Image from Bluewater

Martine Compton

This Strange Ship

This strange ship
will take us,
will take us,
and I little can imagine
my starboard dwelling,
or yours;
the tapping hush
of closed doors rocking,
with the pitch and roll,
forward motion of the ship.

The excitement has been painted countless times before,
once foolishly seen as metaphor.

The trussle and rush and high blue note:
the well-gowned and humbly dressed brush one another in the hall.
But, here, I have delighted in my packing
And, see, finally, the use of a hatbox, and handled luggage,

and the minutes that go into setting up a room.
What will yours be like, I find myself wondering,
with the heady rush of the dead.
But I cannot imagine
that far ahead.

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Martine Compton is a Metro-Detroit musician and lyricist. She is the founding editor of (in T.S. Eliot's words) the "spontaneous and short-lived publications" INPATIENT Magazine (Chicago), gauche magazine (Ann Arbor), and the current Outpatient Magazine of Detroit. Ms. Compton has published cartoons, verse, fiction, and essays in such publications as *The Midwestern Worker* and *Damazine: The Voice of the Arab World* (Syria). She has also written travel articles for *The Global Times* (Beijing). You can find out more about her work at Martinecompton.com.