

Fall 1984

Still Lives in Detriot, #5

Jim Daniels

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Daniels, Jim (1984) "Still Lives in Detriot, #5," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 23 , Article 28.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss23/28>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in CutBank by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Still Lives in Detroit, #5

In the alley behind Simpson's Market
two boys and an older man stand stained
in aprons, lean against the dumpster's smell.

In the field between Simpson's and Delta Drugs
broken glass, candy wrappers, footprints
lie frozen in earth.

Three cigarettes smoke the air.
Across the street, the high school
spills toward them.

The boys pose in faded letter jackets
playing hooky briefly again, stamp
guns on their belts.

The man is smiling as one boy speaks.
He is watching the back door, measuring distances.
No clues to what has put him here.

If I could, I would watch until the mud
took in new shapes, shifted with possibility.
What could be a rat moves through the picture.