

Fall 1984

The Game of "Statues"

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Recommended Citation

Stein, Hannah (1984) "The Game of "Statues"," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 23 , Article 29.

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The Game of "Statues"

I swerve the narrow road at low tide,
the lagoon buffed to silver by the sky.
The car radio is delivering

the news. An egret
stands motionless on one leg, then falters,
labors against grace
before it finds its element.
Against the spread of wet light beside the road
I see from another landscape

Rancho Seco, its huge inverted funnels.
Around them a gypsy's song
already coming from the speakers
thins like blown glass.
This report just now—they're closing
the plant, although its invisible Xenon 133 fumes
pose no threat. This is not

child's play, we might
be stopped at any moment
not by the usual bell or whistle; hands
clapped over the eyes,
the mouth to remain open
in a terrified rictus.