

CutBank

Volume 1
Issue 49 *CutBank* 49

Article 25

Spring 1998

Persistence

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Recommended Citation

McGlinn, Ann (1998) "Persistence," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 49 , Article 25.

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PERSISTENCE

He called her a genius. She turned to snow
and drifted against his house. To tuck away,
suckle the babe, irrational, in her arms

was what she thought, what she ate,
what she heard heroines must do. Genius,
but her effort told her otherwise—

though she could feel the switch
on a bull's back, and the last twitch
of a dying girl, she could draw no conclusions.

She wished for the slow descent of a seahorse,
or the timely arrival of a mad tale to her head—
Time, inordinate. Peaceful. His patio glittering with chairs.