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On Adcock's Hand-Painted

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On Adcock's Hand-Painted Photograph

Light edges the petal
Illuminates the stem
Like a shaft of metal.

The red rose's shape
Is Liberty's torch
Of copper.

Then an uncaged memory
Of the last gift
A thorn-stem.

The hot red rose
Takes a few lines
Demands them, always does.

Emily Compton, WC '96