

The Ponte Delle Torri, Spoleto

William Brown

TW: This piece contains description of suicide.

“The Ponte Delle Torri, Spoleto”
—JMW Turner (1840-5)

A man jumped off the aqueduct
my first day in Spoleto. The rain
worked away the afternoon
and scrubbed off all the signs.

My first day in Spoleto, the rain
sobbed heavy on the mountain
as I scrubbed off all the signs
where Turner did his painting.

Sobbing heavy on the mountain,
policemen and officials grouped
where Turner did his painting.
I said all I could, “Che bellissima.”

Policemen and officials grouped
us students in Piazza della Liberta
and said all they could, “We’re sorry,”
then left us trying to understand.

We students in Piazza della Liberta
worked away the afternoon.
They left us trying to understand,
“Un uomo è saltato giù dall’acquedotto.”