

## A STILL LIFE WITH DIVIDED MIND

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*Ron Swanson*

Indecision makes it so  
predictable: where to place the oranges,  
whether to place the apples inside the bowl  
or beside the bowl. Would roses be

better? How about a triptych?  
The center panel is a garden with a fruit tree,  
and below the root of the tree is a brain  
unprotected, and split in half with a yellow bolt.

What colors will predominate?  
Something primary or secondary.  
Perhaps an overall gesture of slate or steel  
would best portray the divisive

nature of this sudden decision  
to, or not to. We'll place the male  
to the left, the woman to the right. But this still  
doesn't answer the question

of where to place the roses—  
inside or outside, with or without?  
How about a golden palm  
where the mind is divided?