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Her References

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Rae Armantrout

HER REFERENCES

You have exceeded
the maximum
number of spaces
for this personalization.

*

In the dream
Art Garfunkel
calls her by name,

trying to make her
put him in context.

*

When her mother worsens,
she imagines the funeral
of a living celebrity.

Who would attend?
Why or why not?

Is this dream logic?

*

Surplus meaning
could be collected
and made into pathos.

*
"Lettuce, fresh
from the Coachella Valley,"

not that she believes
any such place exists.

* 

She has turned her back on
Self-Storage,

wants neither
a small corral
nor a few
plastic horses inside it,

won't say whether
it was she
who took snails
for a ride
in a wagon

and sang "Oh Susannah,"
then, "Oh Mama,
I'm Susannah";
I'm the one
being referenced.

* 

A few traits
may've been dreamed up
to suggest a likeness.

"Hey, hey,"
two laugh
conspiratorially
because they've met
by accident.