

The Bridge 2009 – *Honorable Mention*

Marcia Davis-Seale - Mt. Vernon, TX

Remnants

There's a new face 'n fashion
To homelessness --
Clean shaven and college-degreed --
Denim dreams, sewn with empty pockets.
Sallie Mae makes her calls to them constant
Her monotone message left on service-less phones
About their school loans
Long past overdue.
While her sister Fannie
Won't answer their calls--
With that written-off debt
That's written them off from affording a life.
It's Jim Bean they converse with
As often as any
Since the call home for help's as distasteful
To swallow as that last eviction note.
Homeless, car-less, jobless, and penniless--
On the shelter-less street
In a street-lamp lit mansion
With an overpass mantle and stove-barrel fire.
There's a new face 'n fashion
To homelessness -
That wears Juicy Couture,
Abercrombie and Fitch.
All new, but fashionably faded and worn,
Warehoused, they're folded, their labels tom out,
On society's back shelves,
And pawn palaces.
There's a new face 'n fashion
To homelessness
We closet with discards,
Which no longer fit or favor us, now.
Too small, too stretched out, and too soiled,
Vintage remnants hung up and hung out.
The trend's too old, the models, too young,
On the runway, bridging homeless to hope.