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Not Jealous Lovers

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Not Jealous Lovers

Bill Elgersma

They hang in the closet
neat rows by colour and style

Like old girlfriends.

No, not petulant,
They quietly smirk
relegated to an end
where next replaced.
—space for something new
All the while knowing,
Who lost and who gained
Once so close, skin to skin
a sense of confidence and comfort.

They know,
unless through wear
they did not outgrow,
Instead outgrown,
and so the new is bigger
larger, a wider version.

But middle age is petty
self-conscious, nostalgic, and wistful,
equivocal and self-indulgent
and so they hang.

Passively on the part of the hangee
Hopefully on the part of the hanger
that once again,
old relationships
will become new.