

My mother's hat

i think i see
my mother's hat
collaged on a painting
on the head
of a large-haired woman
who may resemble
Jackie Kennedy
but that could just be
my imagination.

this small white
pillbox hat
with roses and
pink ribbons
got blown from the head
of my mother
in Manhattan
in 1956
at the Easter Parade.

it was our only trip
to the big city
excited and frightened
my mother, waiting
for one of us to be snatched
to be robbed
to run away
she was losing herself
you see.

so discovering
my mother's hat
after sixty years
on the head
of a brave-haired woman
with caterpillar eyebrows
and a cocksure mouth
above a delicious neck
floods me with the deepest joy.

Lynda EA Campbell