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Apart

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APART

Christopher Darling

You died in a bathtub
that day in November
with crystalline powder,
salt and ester.
Pulling a wet blade
across your skin,
you escaped.
While the hermaphrodite,
the Jewish giant,
the transvestite,
and your asylum clients
hung,
frozen between frames,
juxtaposed on gelatin,
with corners curling,
lonely, but living.
But the porcelain remembers
the legs, your arms,
how you sank past sleep,
wrapped in grace,
black into white.

dedicated to Diane Arbus