

Handiwork

Linda Duede Starbuck

For RLM

I'm inside my grandma's hands,
a tough old broad swirling my pen
like she twisted her crochet hook
while dangling a cigarette
from her sassy mouth.

The news says aging is reversible.
Dial back your genes
like tuning the XM radio to the 70s station,
like pulling a loop through a magic circle.
Wear a top that shows your cleavage.
Drink bootleg whiskey at the river.
Head-bang in a Miata.
Refuse the 10 and 2 of the wheel.

Ashes burn a hole inside butterfly stitches.
Actions lance perpendicular, not parallel,
puncturing morality.
Rip out the mistakes so the story is respectable.
Wrap the thinning skin in an afghan,
wrap the hardened spirit in a poem,
both welded by hands with blue veins popping.