

Still Life with Sacred Heart

by [Michael Shewmaker](#) in the [April 2024](#) issue

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You haven't started sketching
but you've arranged the scene:

a broken loaf, a glass of noir,
the pomegranate, bruised,
crowned with a blackberry vine.

Tomorrow, we celebrate
another year together.

*Lord, have mercy on us,
you say. Should we save the seeds?
For the champagne?*

The moon stalls in the glass
behind you. You turn
the fruit to catch its light—

rearrange the flowering vine.
Soon, you'll draw its likeness.

Where is the flame? I ask.
You pause above the heart,
pour a little more wine.

Oh, it's there—you say,
offering me your hands:

Pricked by the vine,
they blush with hives.
Even my palms are burning.