

A STILL LIFE WITH DIVIDED MIND

Ron Swanson

Indecision makes it so
predictable: where to place the oranges,
whether to place the apples inside the bowl
or beside the bowl. Would roses be

better? How about a triptych?
The center panel is a garden with a fruit tree,
and below the root of the tree is a brain
unprotected, and split in half with a yellow bolt.

What colors will predominate?
Something primary or secondary.
Perhaps an overall gesture of slate or steel
would best portray the divisive

nature of this sudden decision
to, or not to. We'll place the male
to the left, the woman to the right. But this still
doesn't answer the question

of where to place the roses—
inside or outside, with or without?
How about a golden palm
where the mind is divided?