

## *Rae Armantrout*

### HER REFERENCES

You have exceeded  
the maximum  
number of spaces  
for this personalization.

★

In the dream  
Art Garfunkel  
calls her by name,

trying to make her  
put him in context.

★

When her mother worsens,  
she imagines the funeral  
of a living celebrity.

Who would attend?  
Why or why not?

Is this dream logic?

★

Surplus meaning  
could be collected  
and made into pathos.

★

“Lettuce, fresh  
from the Coachella Valley,”

not that she believes  
any such place exists.

★

She has turned her back on  
Self-Storage,

wants neither  
a small corral  
nor a few  
plastic horses inside it,

won’t say whether  
it was she  
who took snails  
for a ride  
in a wagon

and sang “Oh Susannah,”  
then, “Oh Mama,  
I’m Susannah”;  
I’m the one  
being referenced.

★

A few traits  
may’ve been dreamed up  
to suggest a likeness.

“Hey, hey,”  
two laugh  
conspiratorially  
because they’ve met  
by accident.