

VANITY

KATHLEEN HEIL

shows up in the discomfort of looking at the life mask of madrid's abuelas
the makeup heavy enough to be a preparation for death
the misapplied red, the off-color orange,
a floating blue.

if she
looks down
the feet hurt when the body tries for lightness

it is only her
fault the
shoes were worn for beauty,
its own kind of comfort.

Kathleen Heil is originally from New Orleans. Her work has recently appeared in *elimaë*, *Epiphany*, and the English and Spanish editions of *The Barcelona Review*. She lives in Madrid. Her website is <http://kathleenheil.wordpress.com/>.