

Contrasts

by [Susie Gharib](#) (December 2020)



Portrait of Erna, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, 1915

I loved to spot differences as a child

in the pictures of magazines, scattered around the house,
in the shapes of straying clouds
that momentarily lingered in cerulean skies,
in the size of waves I braved without a guide –
I preferred them all to Crosswords –
but now I am seventy and seventy-seven months,
I have grown averse to the notion of contrasts,
such as those spotted when a supple hand
is deliberately placed next to mine
in an effort to remind me that my ageing façade
is beginning to look like a crocodile's.

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