

Strip-Mall Bakery

Beth McDermott

We're all standing
on black and white checkered

vinyl, over land altered by
glaciers. *In the first*

*stages, so-called break
rollers crack the kernel*

open. The children smudge
a case of assorted

donuts. I spent my
childhood looking at braided

spikelets in rapid
succession. Is it sufficient

to grieve for an image—
not the thing

itself? A field of corn
was impenetrable—

left my own body.

Beth McDermott's poetry has appeared in journals such as *DIAGRAM*, *Harpur Palate*, *The Literary Bohemian*, *Red Earth Review*, *Terrain.org*, *Camas*, and *Jet Fuel Review*. She received her MFA from Purdue University and her PhD from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She currently teaches in Joliet, IL.