

POETRY

*Darren C. Demaree*

EMILY AS SHE SAW HERSELF FROM  
A GREAT DISTANCE

I have layered the world with Emily.  
Occasionally, she stumbles upon herself.  
She likes it best when I add a little kink

to her landscape. She likes it when  
I add the black nylons beneath her coat  
& she catches a flash of her own thigh

through the tears I've added with my attention.  
It's incredible, but she always knows when  
she enters the arena. She's a prizefighter,

that woman. She knows that most of them  
are not her, but she respects their gait  
& she welcomes herself as a challenger.