



[INTRO AUDIO TRANSCRIPT]

The Aftermath

—for *The Act of Judith*, 1979-1980, (narrative painting) by Jerome Witkin

This narrative painting, *The Act of Judith*, was created between 1979 and 1980 by Jerome Witkin. In this work of art, I was captured by the contrast of the haunting stillness in the woman's posture and eyes, set against so many subtle hints of thrashing violence pictured in the scene. What I learned about this painting is that "The Act of Judith" is a biblical story that has been portrayed in art numerous times. The story goes that Judith successfully defended her small village from military attack by flirting with the army general, Holofernes, getting him drunk, and then - when he passed out - beheading him. As a result, his army fled. Initially, I had titled my poem for this artwork "The Apology." After learning more, I changed the title. My poem is: "The Aftermath."