

The Untitled

– *for Untitled #404, 2000 (cibachrome photo print) by Cindy Sherman*

So blue a blouse.
Cinched
at the cuffs,
billowing sleeves,
a collar
as long as the years,
all the way up
her neck. She has nothing
left to say, holding on
to what time has taken:
a teddy bear.

So still—
her skin
in stale makeup
like the dead. She doesn't care
for the lipstick. She doesn't
care.

She is tired. Tied
up past her throat
in blue,
stunted tears glossing
a stone
stare,
her teddy bear drooping
from years ago, and she could toss it
aside, shout
from her chest, but
no.

She parts her lips
barely
to breathe.