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## When Sketching Crucifixions

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# When Sketching Crucifixions

You'd think it wouldn't matter  
which you drew first,

the figure or the ground  
but with Renaissance Crucifixions,

beginning with the figure  
risks too big a cross.

And there's pleasure fitting  
Jesus onto a cross, arms

spread eagled and legs held together  
by nailed feet.

The Venetian painters kept  
the feet together, used just one nail.

The thieves got rope:  
they hadn't acted as if they were

the Son of God. Nor could they  
be accused of treason.

It took a lot of men  
to raise an occupied cross.

And it took a lot of time  
to die on one.

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## Author biography

A book of **Annette Barnes's** poems, *Next in Line*, will be published in the fall.