She Took Off Her Wings And Shoes

Bishop, Suzette

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Crates of forgotten artifacts surround you in the museum attic.
You hear your breath move in and out of your asbestos mask, what the men heard who wore masks of animal gods.
You examine an Anasazi bowl, remembering it in your hands, its perfect round shape emptied.
Before painting, mothers gather together dirt, stones, petals to make dyes of ochre, red, and brown.
The newly married women ingest soft clay.
Feathered serpents are gods who must negotiate sky and earth, riding the winds blown from sea to slip beneath the fields.
Centuries of earth cover your hands, you see fringes of wings in the rain.