

*Susan McMaster Poems*

## **Today I Turned Everything Around**

I turned the flowers  
to nod to the wall,  
spiny backs exposed,  
flipped the painting,  
uncovered a tear  
where the framing knife slipped,  
swivelled the armchair,  
found cloth torn by cats  
on the padded back,  
up-ended the tables,  
reversed the rug,  
split the walls  
open to the studs,  
pulled out insulation,  
ripped up floorboards,  
yanked through nails,  
reached into sewer pipes,  
pulled them inside out,  
tore the house away  
from power lines, its web of pipes,  
knocked off sod and trees,  
shook out furniture,  
flipped the roof,  
punched out the cellar,  
crushed the shell  
into a ball  
and held it over your head –

You looked up  
as I looked down.

You were so small.