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Drawing Dying Hands

By Lauren Catlett

Your hands, still,
that never tremble
when wisps of spring air
stroke your skin
like pencil on paper
gripped by fingertips
tracing yours
in graphite

Your hands, big,
against your hollowed frame
which pencil on paper
fills with small marks:
the prints of my fingers
merging with the image
of yours

Your hands, young,
the same age as my own
that preserve them,
pencil on paper,
as your spirit
mingles with the spring air
on your fingertips
and wafts away

Lauren Catlett is an artist, writer, and editor of the book *Shared Doings and Sayings*, a collection of stories and artwork by persons with dementia. She is currently a graduate nursing student in the Clinical Nurse Leader program at the University of Virginia.

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