

The Secret

—Antieau Gallery, Royal St., NOLA

Her fairy tale of blue sky and quiet bugs
presses itself into the bark of a black tree—

Grasshoppers and mosquito hawks,
damsel flies and beetles live

this story stitch by stitch, closer
to the skinny robins in this tree

than any world would allow.
To keep it all a secret, she binds

her red dove's head with linen ribbon,
soft and gentle as a mother's palm

saving her child's eyes from blood,
or sex, or a life too good to lose.

It's one thing for the dove to remember
what it's seen, another to fly off and share.