

## **The woman who hands you a gun**

Don't think because I'm old  
I'm not learning anymore. No.  
That's not how it goes. Right  
now I'm on my way, leaving  
town to be a carny, a barker  
at the tattooed lady's tent flap  
or the woman who hands you a gun  
at the shooting gallery or hoops  
to toss over baby dolls. It's got  
to be something I don't have  
to study or practice, something  
I can slip right into, on-the-job  
training. Because I don't have  
that kind of time anymore.  
I'm saying I'll be an intern  
an apprentice – not a student.  
I don't have time for that.

*Judith Arcana* ..... first published in *Cirque*, Winter Solstice 2012