

## NOELLE CORREIA

*Lua Perdida*, 2012  
Acrylic Paint and Fabric Collage, 18 x 18 in



courtesy: the artist

## WILLIAM J. HARRIS

### The Black Card Players: A Collage

**William J. Harris** is the director of the MFA in creative writing program at the University of Kansas. His most recent collections, *Domande Personali* and *Crooners*, are bilingual, English and Italian. He has published in many anthologies and magazines, including *Every Goodbye Ain't Gone*, *Began Again*, *Chicago Review*, and *Beloit Poetry Journal*. He is coeditor of a special issue of *Jacket 2* (forthcoming) on the poetry of Kenneth Irby.

Bearden's card players  
In some ways  
Differ from Cézanne's

In Cézanne  
All  
Three men  
Intensely stare  
At their  
Cards

Their cards  
Are their  
Only world

In Bearden  
Two card  
Players  
Stare  
At their  
Cards  
Intensely

The third  
Vacantly stares  
Out  
Toward us  
But not looking  
At us

His cards  
Flat on the table

Does he have a bad  
Hand or  
Is he thinking  
About his father's  
Impending  
Death?

In Cézanne  
The spectators  
Pay no attention  
To the game  
Stare off  
Musing on  
Their own lives

In Bearden  
No spectators

A waitress (?)  
Brings  
A glass  
Of red  
Wine  
Possible joy

But  
In Bearden's  
More  
Colorful  
World  
Nobody  
Interacts  
Either

All are  
Lost  
In their  
Own thoughts