

FANNE FERNOW

The Litany of Saints: Nimbus Eight, 2012
encaustic on panel, 8 x 8 in



credit: Conrad Wilde Gallery

LINDA PASTAN

On Installing Anne Bradstreet in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine: Poet's Corner

What would Mistress Bradstreet think
of this stony urban cathedral—
incense prickling the nostrils,

misting the eye—of these golds
and scarlets, gilts and velvets, this
so ceremonial ceremony?

And what would my grandfather
think, leaning on banks of cloud
as on extra pillows Passover night,

watching from his strict Jewish heaven
as I follow a priest and his crucifix
down the lengthy, exacting aisle?

I am celebrating Poetry,
installing our sisterly muse
the way Wordsworth and Lamb

were installed in Westminster Abbey,
across that turbulent ocean
Anne herself once bravely sailed.

Still, I'd rather think of her beside
the *dear and loving husband* she desired
(more ardently than her prickly Puritan

minister required or would have condoned)
kneeling together in a plain wooden church
the white of a New England winter.

Linda Pastan's latest book is *Traveling Light*. She received the Ruth Lilly Prize in 2003 and is a former poet laureate of Maryland. New poems are, or will be, appearing in *The Atlantic*, *The Paris Review*, and *Five Points*.