Requirement

by Kari Nguyen

"Nobody hangs a picture of an oil tanker."

- The Shipping News, by E. Annie Proulx

Somewhere, between fire and ice, under the wind and above the lost desert, darkness spreads. She sits at home, on the floor of the kitchen, bathing her stuffed animals in molasses to match the ones on the news. The glassy, marble eyes stare back in silent acceptance. Their eyes look to us.