

## The Wailing Wall (A Mural Artist Weeps)

By Michelle Rankins

*He draws the images of dead children  
on the wailing wall in Cleveland.  
These babies, somebody's child,  
now rest in peace, but died in hate*

*Lord God! the artist cries*

Why have you sentenced my brushes to be like \*Sisyphus?  
Why must I keep drawing these same brown smiling faces,  
or keep writing RIP over and over and over again?

When will the killing season end, and a new day begin?

Lord God, if humankind won't save itself  
then, what good are my brushes? My art?

Please God, when can I stop painting young ghosts?

When will hate stop planting these children,  
and love start planting roses?

*Dear God, I want to only capture the living!*

*\*Greek legend. Because of his indiscretions, Sisyphus was condemned to an eternity of rolling a boulder uphill then watching it roll back down again.*

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