

# Contrasts

by [Susie Gharib](#) (December 2020)



*Portrait of Erna*, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, 1915

I loved to spot differences as a child

in the pictures of magazines, scattered around the house,  
in the shapes of straying clouds  
that momentarily lingered in cerulean skies,  
in the size of waves I braved without a guide –  
I preferred them all to Crosswords –  
but now I am seventy and seventy-seven months,  
I have grown averse to the notion of contrasts,  
such as those spotted when a supple hand  
is deliberately placed next to mine  
in an effort to remind me that my ageing façade  
is beginning to look like a crocodile's.

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**Susie Gharib** is a graduate of the University of Strathclyde with a Ph.D. on the work of D.H. Lawrence. Her writing has appeared in multiple venues including [Impspired Magazine](#) and [The Ink Pantry](#).

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