

Negative Space

by Sue Neufarth Howard

What you don't notice
between tree leaves
between birds in flight formation

the space around
the artist's painted image
around newlyweds out for a stroll.

What the eye picks up that you
don't see—until
the negative space looms large.

Limbless dead tree against the sky
tiny downed bird
the couple a table apart

man alone on a high roof ledge.