

# The New Criterion

Poems February 2002

## Separating the flowers

by Laurie Lamon

I rinsed the stems  
and lifted the dead blossoms  
from those still palpable

with color and scent,  
then set the vase down again  
like a scale whose one side,

unburdened, rises.  
The tiger lily lasted another  
week. Lifting it, I thought

of Demeter and Mary  
outlasting what must have felt,  
at first, like desertion.

*Laurie Lamon*

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**Laurie Lamon's** poems have appeared in *The New Republic*, *The Atlantic Monthly* and *Ploughshares*.

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