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## Anxiety in Motion

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MICHELE LYNN PAWLAK

# Anxiety in Motion

Her left hand flicks a cigarette that doesn't  
Need to be ashed. Her right hand clenches,  
Fingers curling to her palm, and then,  
She splays them all out again.

I've watched her for twenty-two minutes,  
Counting the times she uncrosses her legs  
And then crosses them again.  
Sixteen times seems like too many.

In thirty minutes, I see her pattern:  
Legs uncross, hand clenches shut,  
Legs cross, hand opens wide.  
I wonder if she times it?

Her trainwreck movements:  
The jerks, the twitches, the constant motion.  
I like the way her left hand never leaves her hair  
When it isn't flicking a cigarette.