

Unease

Arianna Vann-Cook

Ripped out of their natural habitat,
tied down and photographed,
though I haven't experienced their pain, I can feel their wrath.

Objectified, dehumanized,
swimming in the depths of all things evil,
stripped of their pride,

do we not see the tragedies and casualties
unfolding before our eyes?

Why are these elusive crimes so hard to see through?
it could be your mother, your sister, your daughter,
it could be you.

These women do not belong in cages to fulfill your
so-called wages.
These children shouldn't have to be traumatized.

We live in a world where greed trumps righteousness,
the ones we think we can trust are the ones promoting lifelessness

Our sisters have unprecedented price tags.

Bar-coded, side-noted,
put on a platter and served as a sight gag.

We close our blinds, clasp our bags
and look over our shoulders,
the enemy is not far,
and this silent war is *not* over