

**Valerie Lopez (b. 1985)**  
McClintock High School

*Fear Of My Flesh*, 2003  
oil on canvas  
24 x 17½ inches

As I sit on my bed shivering with  
Fear and tears running down my face,  
I'm thinking...his face with so much hatred  
And mine with fear. He's pounding on my  
Door harder than hail in a winter storm.  
I feel the presence of the belt  
That keeps me awake with the pain.  
I scream but don't know if it's anger  
Or fear. How could my own  
Be so cruel. But one day  
I'll be saved.

