

Da Vinci's *A Bear Walking*

An eerie likeness
between a bear's paw
and a human's hand.

We don't realize this
until the bear is skinned,
splayed on a blue tarp,

cracked open for viewing.
Hands hold the power
to grab, fend, and cuff;

protect the young, sustain.
Our hands can dart, miss
the mark, dispatch

the wild beast roaming
the dark woods, travelling
its enduring trails.