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## Abstract Relief

after “Celestial Mechanics” (linoleum cut print by Don Schol, Vietnam War veteran and combat artist)

**Marzelle Robertson**

black and white, not either/or  
strong diagonal, after/before

structures like embassies  
structures like bunkers

darkened squares of windows/targets  
the arrow that curves, directs

the way under the arched viaducts  
something follows – tanks or trucks –

the parallel bars of a rail  
past where the bridge ends and sail

into congested confusion, night  
other spheres falling with halos of light

shocking the water or radio waves  
and rigid order breaks and caves

things undulate –  
wires, tunnels, snakes

jagged angles open like jaws  
wrenches, vices, or devils’ claws

half-moon eyes slit at the pupils  
look out, look down on medals

grills fail to protect; grilling harrows  
every path opens and narrows

in the maze, half-circle or circle  
turning on wrath, the torquing axle

gears, cogs, and wheels separate  
road, run-way, or bone – whatever was straight

disarranged, mangled, a loss  
skewed into a cross