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## Before Surgery

Emily Rosko

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*Emily Rosko*

## Before Surgery

Paintings in waiting  
rooms never fit the  
appalling décor

of teal plastic  
chairs, confetti  
carpet, and the homey

wallpaper dappled with  
a rosette motif.  
The prints are

the same—either  
architectural shapes:  
looming triangle,

halved circle. Or the  
landscape in calm  
relief. Trees edged

with winter, white-blue  
snow swept  
nothingness. Toneless

sky. The subject  
backing  
away from itself.