



Image: “Graphing Uncertainty V” by Christine Crockett. “Shoulder MRI” was written by Elizabeth McMunn-Tetangco for *Rattle*’s Ekphrastic Challenge, February 2024, and selected as the Editor’s Choice.

SHOULDER MRI

poem by Elizabeth McMunn-Tetangco

It doesn’t hurt it is
abstract.

The pain
is toothaches, but

displaced.
A refugee. There is

a word.
It’s like a hammer

and a nail, how everything

becomes your
pain. It sleeps and wakes.

It wakes you up. It goes all

egg-shaped, tastes
of blood. You

picture pain
in little threads, tender

as clams. Papier maché. You see

the torn part. No

one knows that it is there. It hates
this too.

