



4-1-1984

## Moses of Michelangelo

Elaine Ellsworth Naylor

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### Recommended Citation

Naylor, Elaine Ellsworth (1984) "Moses of Michelangelo," *BYU Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 24 : Iss. 2 , Article 10.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq/vol24/iss2/10>

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## Moses of Michelangelo

Moses, you are magnificent!  
There is awe  
    In your marbled translucence,  
In your composed wholeness,  
    And your quiet dignity.

Michelangelo knew you were there.  
And he chipped away unerringly  
    At the rough stone  
That covered you  
    Until you were free,  
    Smoothed  
    And polished  
    And clear.

And now you are *here*,  
    Shining through,  
Turning marble into life!

(Oh, Master Sculptor,  
    I know I am not a Moses.  
My chunk of stone is only small—  
    But I am here.  
    Free me.  
    Free me!)

—Elaine Ellsworth Naylor

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Elaine Ellsworth Naylor is a poet living in Salt Lake City.