THREE RIDDLES

Riddle I

Hot earth bore me.
Cold machinery formed me.
I move others
When I'm stirred,
Although my moves
Are blurred.
My tongue is cleft
And yet my utterance
Is single,
Always the same,
And absolutely true.
A nightingale among objects,
I'm a songbird,
A metal stork.

What am I, then?

Ahhhh.

A tuning fork.

Riddle II

Drape the mirrors.
I have lost my shape,
My purpose.
I still serve, as always —
But not the proper object.
Once, I invited human contact,
Now I'm only here to say:
Don't touch. Keep away.
Before, I said: Rest.
Now I say: Dust.
Before, I said: Welcome.
Now I say: Farewell.

I was the layer of air On which she dreamed. I held her At the final scream. I was As white as she was When she dressed To be a bride.

What am I?

I am a bedsheet Thrown over a chair In the house of a woman who died.

Riddle III

I am your opposite. I am everything That you are not.

I am not your double Or your twin. Not even close.

And if you change I change with you To oppose you, To cancel you out, Negate you.

I am What you are not, I am Who you are not.

Your shadow and your mirror. Your Rorschach blot. Your moon and sun. Yet should you say so, I am none.

What am I?

I'm the one.