Please Do Not Touch the Artwork

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This one.
The 1961 oil on canvas.
One of your earlier works,
with paint smeared so thick
it rises and falls from the canvas
with its own unique geographical features.
I doubt you'd even notice it missing,
if I shoved the 24” x 16” canvas under my top
and strolled past the guard near the exit.

I want to, you know?
Take this painting home,
dig my fingernails between the layers of paint
and peel them back one by one.
Fill my own paint brushes with paint thinner.
Paint backwards
until I'm left with nothing but
a plain, blank canvas.

Then paint myself blue,
grow a couple of extra arms,
string together some human skulls
and tape together a skirt of human limbs.

A sort of statement, a sort of,
"I am become Death, the destroyer of small, painted worlds."
Maybe move to Manhattan.

In the corner, someone sneezes,
and I'm standing far too close to your painting
for the curator's comfort.