“Frayed Hearts, Textured”
By Mary Susan Gast

Frayed, but unafraid.

The fibrous, stalky, broccoli of hearts,
Stringy, ropy, tough.
Taken in, duped,
But never entirely broken down.

Frayed.
*Maybe a little afraid?*
Singed on the edges,
But not totally unraveled.

Artwork elements
of acrylic and cotton thread,
Boosted by texture paste.

Surface qualities of depth and height,
Intensified. Upgraded.
Lavished on all the off-kilter hearts,
Countervailing quavering uncertainty,
Dispelling illusory shallowness.

Texture paste.
Hey, isn't the medium the message?