

GOTHIC NATURE



GOTHIC NATURE II

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COVER CREDIT:

Model IV, 2017

Artist: D Rosen

Cast Aluminum (Original Objects: Buck Antler and Stomach (Decorative Model), Camel Mask

(Theatrical Model), Whip (Didactic Model), Stiletto (Decoy Model), Goose Neck (Decoy Model),

Nylons, Bra Underwire, Calvin Klein Dress, Facial Mask, Necklace, Wax

21 x 25 x 12 in.

Photo credit: Jordan K. Fuller

Fabrication: Chicago Crucible

WEB DESIGNER:

Michael Belcher

Gris-Gris

Jack B. Bedell

‘Yesterday we came into the yard of an old homestead long abandoned [...] The smell of those people was gone, but something remained in the air about the ruin of their cabin—something cold and disheartening’—Molly Gloss, *Wild Life* (2000).

Even the wildest of beasts
 stay clear of the stench

memories leave in abandoned
 spaces. They might explore

an old farmhouse’s cabinets
 for food, or even sleep

in its closets on cold nights,
 but once all nooks are cleaned out

and the yard’s dug up
 for whatever it holds,

nature always leaves these ghosts
 to grass and the slow return of trees.

BIOGRAPHY

Jack B. Bedell is Professor of English and Coordinator of Creative Writing at Southeastern Louisiana University where he also edits *Louisiana Literature* and directs the Louisiana Literature Press. Jack's work has appeared in *Pidgeonholes*, *The Shore*, *Cotton Xenomorph*, *Okay Donkey*, *EcoTheo*, *The Hopper*, *Terrain*, and other journals. His latest collection is *Color All Maps New* (Mercer University Press). He served as Louisiana Poet Laureate 2017-2019.