

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

Four Poems

Rick Hudson

Wolves

In howling trees
Of frosty mooned forests
The starving shadows circle.
Retreat
Retreat
Retreat
Into leering blackness,
Ancient grey and devious.
Clever
Clever
Clever.
Clever grin of jaws.

Foal

Under the fog of its heat,
It slithers and gristles
On crackling straw;
Snake-like it casts off its birth shroud.
Splayed and awkward for an instant.
Tottering, toppling hoof-skid-
Wide-eyed, rolling white terror-

Fearful of this life, this thing, this world.
Knowledge fills its limbs with blood:
It knows it is a horse.

Adder

An archaic and perfect machine
Flows and pushes
Pouring itself thickly
Like blood through the bracken
Neck, wavering strangely,
Fascinates like a basilisk.

Wasps

Spreading like a tumour,
The hive smothers the oak that supports it.
Murmuring drones lumber the
Humming dark tunnels
And deep droning tombs
Draining the sap of their world.

Catacombed queen
Drowsy in her sepulchre,
Lost in fifty-fathom dreams.
Encrypted legions
In cramped mausoleums

Wait inert, alert for another ruin.

A world of vaults:

Too grand, choked by sophistication

A decadent warren, baroque and gothic

Collapsing under the weight of its cruel technologies.

BIOGRAPHY

Rick Hudson is an English Literature and Creative Writing academic who specialises in the study of horror / Gothic; fantasy and sf texts principally from a Bakhtinian and psychoanalytic perspective. He is also a writer in his own right whose fiction includes both experimental literary fiction, popular horror fiction and fiction which is located in the much disputed territory between these two poles. He has seen his fiction published along side that of writers including Neil Gaiman; Clive Barker; John Carpenter (yes, THAT John Carpenter); Shaun Hutson; Bentley Little; Storm Constantine; Graham Masterton and Guy N. Smith as well as broadcast by BBC Radio. He also contributes articles to consumer magazines available from W.H. Smith's and other major retailers that focus on the gaming industry.