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Interieur / Interior

Utz Rachowski

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Roles

Author: Utz Rachowski

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Interieur / Interior

Abstract

This poem, from a 1995 collection by a German Writer-in-Residence Utz Rachowski, appears with a facing-page translation by Ritterson in the inaugural issue of the arts review from Franklin & Marshall College.

Keywords

Utz Rachowski, German, poetry

Disciplines

German Language and Literature | Poetry

Utz Rachowski

INTERIEUR

(eine Nacht, ein Café, ein Gespräch)

Als Kind,
sagte der erste,
hatte ich böses Blut.
Sie haben es getauscht.
Seitdem schreibe ich unter falschem Namen.

Als Kind,
sagte der zweite,
hatte ich Löcher in der Lunge.
Sie verwachsen mit den Jahren.
Aber seither schreibe ich vom Tod
der ein größer werdendes Loch ist.

Als Kind,
dachte ich, als dritter am Tisch,
legten sie meine Beine in Schienen.
Schau nur, die Kinder dort spielen,
rief meine Mutter.
Seitdem laufe ich davon und schreibe darüber.

Aber das fiel mir erst später ein, morgens,
als meine Freunde schon gegangen waren
und eine weiße Taube über den nassen
Asphalt lief.

INTERIOR

(a night, a café, a conversation)

As a child,
said the first one,
I had bad blood.
So they exchanged it.
Since then, I've been writing under an assumed
name.

As a child,
said the second one,
I had holes in my lungs.
They closed up over time.
But since then, I've been writing about death,
a hole that's becoming larger.

As a child,
I thought, as the third one at the table,
they put my legs in braces.
Just look at the children playing there,
called my mother.
Since then, I've been running away and writing
about it.

But that only occurred to me later, next
morning, when my friends had already left
and a white pigeon ran across the
wet asphalt.

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