

## *Farm Art*

animal hide (skin and away)  
slide past fur to moist inside  
animal hide  
slide past feather and fur  
moist inside

beyond pony eyes

further than the grey sludged matter of turkey's ears

poke through the substance to not find any meaning  
with ruminant's hooves  
beating the land  
to a tale of ecological scope, not maudlin but still felt in  
lives lived as breath meets the air  
merged, with different meanings

slide past the fur and feathers  
hear them breathing the land  
feeding the hand that feeds –

turkey eyes dark and flat  
poignant against the pastel washed out colour of a peacock palette  
rubberized and wrinkled, smoothness lost to dangling pieces.  
run in frenzy. make some noise.  
tick tock beat the clocks of their heads.

unlike the peaced up twitch of ponies  
soft rolling heads like hay meadows  
butterfly lashes and nuzzled shanks  
whorl and hoof  
smell the skin musked wild  
slide past the hide.

beneath the skin of a cow  
lies a complex rumination factory  
5 stomachs eat roughage cellulose grass  
one stomach hosts essential amino acid creating beasts.  
methane burps.

slip past hide and wool  
lamb of a tiger deity,  
brambled traps weave stolen clouds of skin,  
scrapie jaws  
open up to eat the debris  
and spit up hard ram horns,  
shell shaped and marbled  
to walk the land.

these are fields of ragwort wars,  
the poppies have long gone and the  
hands slide through hide with purpose.  
the soil's skin  
fleshed out by moles, sings of reality.  
the animal and people stories written in grass, hay and pellets, fly.  
and road kill badgers draw a pedestrian pass-over for the angels of mercy  
as clouds film proceedings without care for meaning  
esoteric obfuscation dissolves in the solid experience of farming.

a painting of fur feather and hide whispers of the intricacies of the flesh of  
how hooves and hearts beat, mouths and hands feed,  
the mystery of transubstantiation rises with each breath in the cold air  
dancing cross country as it slides past  
skin.

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