

MAD FOLD-IN POEMS — DANIEL SCOTT TYSDAL



A Mad Fold-In Poem

A▶

◀B

You—this mucky fire slathered in my mind's
 frame—are as committed to me as artists are
 to art. At times, your voice is constant—"kill
 yourself, kill yourself, kill yourself"—fists
 punching clay with the aim to make me nothing
 more than punched clay. Other times
 you're a cinema in my skull, screening me
 mangled: one leg auger-mauled, hand
 vice-crushed, eye pencil-blinded to life—
 "end it," you say, in the scene you
 loop: this cinema's walls with a bullet
 burst. At parties, you shape a sinister
 play from others' glances: "hate
 him," "idiot," "fool." When I bloom, a sun,
 all alight and rising, you flatten my lift
 into lines on a page
 like Jaffe's in the back of MAD; you fold it over
 and now the rise is the wound from a wing
 cleaved and then gilded, the sun's the mouth of
 a scum-cruste drain, the bloom's a thousand
 -foot fall. Without relent, the strangling
 chorus of you circles me and sings:

A▶

◀B

Fold back so "A" meets "B"

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Daniel Scott Tysdal is the ReLit award-winning author
 of three books of poetry, the poetry textbook
The Writing Moment: A Practical Guide to Creating Poems
 (Oxford UP), and the TEDx talk, "Everything You Need to Write a Poem (and
 How It Can Save a Life)."
 He teaches at the University of Toronto Scarborough.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Valentin Brown creates what he calls "soft body horror"—
 a mythology of monsters that live on the "Body Farm."
 This world of grotesque guardians describes his experiences of being an autistic
 trans man with a trauma history.

Using mixed media sculpture painting, and drawing,
 Valentin pieces together a gaze that is queer, trauma-informed, and on the
 spectrum. This lens not only reframes Valentin's
 experience with awe, humour, and hope, but also puts
 accessibility right at the heart of it all.

Valentin lives in Hamilton and is a 2017 graduate of Visual and Creative Arts
 at Sheridan College. In 2019, he was awarded
 the Won Lee Fellowship and the Intergenerational LGBT Artist Residency, and
 exhibited his first solo show, "Body Farm"
 with Tangled Art + Disability.

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