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## Two Poems

### **Abstract**

Two poems, "Dark Lines Rising Like Flowers" and "Just a Little Off the Top."

### **Keywords**

poem, poetry, floral, intimacy, change

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## Two Poems

Mitchell Untch

### Dark Lines Rising Like Flowers

The pleated starlight,

a camisole of mist

through ladders of branches, gathers.

I had forgotten the movement of night,

stars that tremble in the cold,

the things that spin white nests, moonlight,

and the moon, that living thing,

shimmering through the bedroom window

penetrating the ink ridden sky...

how day moves in, a squall of wings,

sunlight filtering through leaves.

I turn to look at you, your body on the bed

I want to hold in this light.

But something stops me, keeps my hands away.

I don't want to move. I want to lie still, as

still as the world never is,

imagine the hesitancy we had before touching,

when only our breath reached forward,

when I felt most human not knowing anything about you.

Not waking you,

I can see the dark lines of night slip

out from underneath your legs, your hips,

unsheathing your chest,

your body chiseled like stone,

something the Gods made.

\* \* \*

### **Just A Little Off The Top**

She took a comb, measured the length of his hair,  
fluffed it with her fingers, watched it fall  
over his forehead and lay like a hedge

over the pink hubs of his ears. Tattoos snaked  
along her elbow, coiled the entire length of her arm,  
her hair—periwinkle, rose, African violet.  
I liked her blue tennis shoes, the green lipstick,  
the abandoned look of her clothes.  
The stud in her tongue sparkled when she opened  
her mouth, like an earring discovered  
at the bottom of a drawer shimmering in the underwear.  
I wondered what it must taste like—  
her tongue sliding over the silver  
stud like a stale dinner mint.  
I think she'd be fun at a party,  
the girl dancing on the table  
with an olive in her bellybutton  
and two striped straws to hold her hair up,  
the one all the guys in the bathroom  
would snicker about, and later, dream of touching.  
I admired her handiness with the blow dryer,  
her instinct with scissors,  
the way she maneuvered around the chair  
slightly brushing her patron's arm with her razor,  
her lips, tightening. That was exciting to watch.  
How she jockeyed behind him,  
curled the upper right side of her mouth, that green blown leaf,  
pulled the tips of his hair as he looked in the mirror,  
horrified, wanting her, eyeing her hands, waiting  
for that final double rinse at the porcelain bowl,  
her fingers dipped in hair wax,  
watching her sweep the floor,  
her undulant arm, the inked heart  
ripening on her skin,  
the one with the arrow through it.

Mitchell Untch is an emerging writer, a *Pushcart Prize* Nominee for 2011, and is scheduled to appear in the following upcoming publications in 2012: *Fourth River*; *The Beloit Poetry Journal*; *Quiddity International*; *The James Dickey Review and Confrontation* in 2012. He has most recently appeared in *Kestrel Magazine*, *The Los Angeles Review*, *Nimrod International*, *The Wisconsin Review*, *The Hawaii Review*, *Jabberwock Review*, among others. Mr. Untch currently studies with poet, Carol Frost.

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