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Temper Broadside Series, Fall 2019

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2. The Embalmer

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The Embalmer

May 24th, 1934



one-hundred and fifty
bullets made porcelain skin
look like a moth had a thanksgiving
feast. holes scattered across
bodies like freckles in the sun.

the cicadas vibrated
like electric wires;
applauding the deputies work.
the two bodies;
cold, slackening. emerged from
hiding for their final
mission of rest.

gnarled hands twisted
into talons. blown out cheeks.
this was my hardest masterpiece;
to make evil smile virtuously.

I really tried to help.
taking the chemicals beneath
my fingers. it was like finger painting
raw beef. the formaldehyde
oozed from their eyes.
So many holes,
so many holes.

temper

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"The Embalmer May 24th, 1934"

Olivia Taylor

Anger (Watercolor, Charcoal, Pen and Ink, Pencil)

Adalaire Blue

designed by Katie Connor

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