

POETRY

John Maurer

A Damp Paper Swan

Is it the sodium or the sucrose?
Is not dying truly synonymous with living for you?
You can have death, I will take all the dishonor
Though I don't even do this for me
I do this for you, so you can see it isn't all a cage
Or if it is, we will try to leave it in pieces

I will not fall back into fatalism like a wall when I'm drunk
Clawing for a way to stay somewhere I don't want to be
I will turn to molt on the malt covered floorboards
Right before I fall right through them
Into another room clouded with volumes
Of fancy books and conversations that none of their authors would entertain

I won't either, leave the gossip to the gossamers, I shall sit in the silence above or below

Internal Triangulation

I wouldn't wish this on my worst enemy, for they would fall short of the task
And the contusion would only be voiced in complaints
Do not ask me for an apology, teach me forgiveness
All the axiom I rotated around spread themselves across the universe
Distance is the largest hindrance in transparency
That's why historical artifacts are kept under six inches of glass

This isn't spectral, this isn't astral, this is a loaded gun in your hand
Please aim it at the appendix of my body of work
I could watch it burst and it wouldn't hurt a bit
This is dedicated to the abyss, to the void that is filled with more than I have

Uncharted Territory

Such things can only be found far beyond the crumbled pillars
Only in the uninhabited forests are there still words unwritten
It is easy to identify that that hasn't been witnessed before
To know how to define it, is a far longer study
A camera flash can't capture why or how

Only what, only substance, nothing substantial
Feel no pride in what you haven't commanded upon
Even in evil is there information worthy of extraction
It takes from you what you take from it, that's only fair
There is no acquisition in their world, only exchange

About the Poet

John Maurer is a 27-year-old writer from Pittsburgh that writes fiction, poetry, and everything in-between, but their work always strives to portray that what is true is beautiful. They have been previously published in Claudius Speaks, The Bitchin' Kitsch, Thought Catalog, and more than ninety others. @JohnPMaurer (johnpmaurer.com)