

---

# The Mantle

A Poem and a Sculpture

By

Dennis Smith\*

---

\*Dennis Smith is a Mormon artist, born and reared in Alpine, Utah. He has studied at Brigham Young University and the Royal Academy of Art in Copenhagen.

## The Mantle

Box-found khaki  
hanging in my hands;  
empty jacket  
of my mother's little brother.

Cold metal emblems  
fastened still to the collar  
by little brass pinchers.  
There is lint and sand  
on the pocket bottoms.  
And blood-red bars  
sewn on the sleeve.

Grown-up uncle,  
where have you gone?  
For at grandpa's  
down by the stagnant frog pond,  
the swing hangs silent  
which you built.

And suddenly  
I feel the fear  
which comes at night  
when the doors are closed,  
and I can hear the muffled  
grownup voicing,  
and cannot understand—  
knowing only the black corners,  
and afraid.



