

Amit Majmudar

Classical Anatomy

He was quite the anatomist wasn't he Homer his *Iliad* reads
like an atlas of muscles divided & peeled to reveal what a war
can inscribe on a body Sing, Muse of the entry & exit wounds mapped
with a medic's dispassion arrived at the scene of the stabbing he charts
the invasions of weaponry in past the vulcanized shoulderblade out
through the cup of the collarbone isn't it fitting how most of our bodies
are classically named anapestically pushpinned the malleus scapula
clavicle uvula mandible spear point of ash wood uptongued
through the mouth of a soldier who bleedshouts his epic of dripping metal
his breastplate a bas relief rectus abdominis sharply defined
that aureate ratio torso to legs a god of poetic design
his mind takes a page from the body & studies it keen as a vulture
for the body is everything only a hand knows a hand
well enough to inform & ensinew in song or in sculpture
how a bellowing Myrmidon shot through the sternum can stand
for a moment & teeter before he reverts to an ant on the sand