

BOYER RICKEL

[The Romanesque Christ, made modest]

The Romanesque Christ, made modest
by the taste of a later century, his lambent
lapis-painted loincloth stripped
to plain gray-veined wood,
hangs bleeding over my head
in an apse across from a lintel carved
half cock, half scorpion who,
in the Medieval bestiary, could kill
with a look. A walk through the stone
volumes of reconstructed cloisters
in one long in-breath. Do fish know they
swim in water? is how I feel, faithless,
adrift in an internal expanse
in search of something akin to
the atmosphere of a familiar body.