

Still life

"There will be time to murder and create." T.S. Eliot

a leatherbound Bible
and the works of Louis L'Amour
bless every room
in his family's home

more strikingly,
some quarter million dollars worth of taxidermy fills the house
& spills into specially-constructed, heated outbuildings
designed for display

every creeping thing that creepeth in his palette,
framed within the crosshairs of a Bushnell scope,
the powers of creation and destruction the same

snuffed
then
stuffed with obsessive reverence
the spirit breathed into these dried and salted hides
freed from the dull and constant search for food
the essential moment realized
the ecstasy

hundreds of glass eyes
sparkling ever more greatly
than in life