

# Keystone Deficiency

*by* Bill Yarrow

A doctor's walls reveal quite a bit  
about a physician, do you think?  
Those pictures of black jazz musicians  
leaning against silk saxophones  
inspire confidence. But the paintings  
that are one painting chopped  
into three parts—those scare  
the ennui out of me. I do respect  
diplomas, but when the name  
on the degree doesn't match the doctor  
in the room, I'm plainly uncomfortable.  
What about those 19th century French  
ad posters for lemon seltzer and parasols?  
A doctor needs twenty-foot walls to hang  
those things! Beware superfluous color,  
internecine abstraction, or foetus clouds.  
Ornate frames indicate mental instability.  
If you recognize the artist, the doctor is  
a charlatan. If you encounter macrame,  
leave the practice, consult a soothsayer.

