Second Collage

by stephen hastings-king

B developed a thick emulsion that he paints onto the pieces of meat on which he prints photographs. Then he photographs the photographs as the medium decays: senior class pictures: images of cattle; Edward Curtis portraits of Native Americans. He says: Decay is the form of persistence that is most like memory.

Soon these activities invade his thinking. He edits sequences of his past from the viewpoint of another who substitutes for his head a meat photograph and for his limbs aeroplanes and knife blades, serpents and wings. When his eyes are replaced by spherical lamps he becomes an electric fly. His buzzing is a multicolored glow.