

ABSTRACT

THE NATURE OF NATURE

In *The Critic as Artist*, Oscar Wilde says it best: “Man is least himself when he talks in his own person. Give him a mask and he will tell you the truth.”

It is the poet’s nature to speak from the page, to use the printed page as a kind of mask. Most poets will argue with me that the act of writing a poem itself is to speak truth, unafraid, without a mask. But give me a poet willing to say what they truly feel without the mask of paper and ink and I will grow wings and fly too close to the sun.

I enjoy the mask. And I try to use it as best as I can. The only fear I face is the thought of losing myself entirely to the masked dialogue of poetry. But, then again, how strange and beautiful would that be?

Elliott Lane McDow
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