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The Overpass Outside Fort Worth

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THE OVERPASS OUTSIDE FORT WORTH

Fredrick Zydek

In this place the Interstate and all its daughters
flay out into the universe like ribbons forming
a perfect bow over the gifts of the city. This
is the future written large—concrete and steel
given such elegant form they appear as brush

strokes on a canvas of modern art destined for
another century. We have urges to redirect our
journey to experience these flying buttresses
of the road, these sculptures that look as if they
should grace a colony in outer space instead

of the outskirts of a city that began as a fort on
the Texas plains. These ramps and cement hills
might as well be the most gracefully conceived
rollercoaster in the world. We determine we will
bring a camera on the return trip so these images

can be captured and taken home, prizes as dear
as our photographs of the Alamo, the hill country
outside Blanco, the antlers and strange stone you
found on the Hinton estate, and the sculpture of
the great lone star in front of the Austin Museum.

In minutes we pass among and under these roads
that seem to lead to the stars. We wonder if those
who live here, long used to seeing these sure proofs
of the genius of the human spirit, think of them as
nothing more than the streets that lead to home.