

Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal

Volume 10 | Issue 2

Article 6

January 2011

Double X (Language, Violence)

Edward Adams

Follow this and additional works at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate>

Recommended Citation

Adams, Edward (2011) "Double X (Language, Violence)," *Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal*: Vol. 10: Iss. 2, Article 6.

Available at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate/vol10/iss2/6>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). It has been accepted for inclusion in Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal by an authorized editor of The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). For more information, please contact ORB@binghamton.edu.

Adams: Double X (Language, Violence)

DOUBLE X (LANGUAGE, VIOLENCE)

Edward Adams

—after "Siena Dos Equis," 1975, by Susan Rothenberg

A horse boxed in, all pink and wrong
in ways that slide beneath your skin and wait,
cooler than body temp.

This is no Crayola pink.
This is pink's troubled cousin,
pink gone bad, pink home weary

from years of heavy travel.
This pink tells things
you don't want to hear.

And don't get too close to that horse.
He lost his tail somewhere,
other parts are missing,

but he's still plenty horse.
Look at those fetlocks, cocked like hammers
on Buntline forty-fives.

What really gets you, though,
is that head. Not the one
you see calm and gentle, that's

a mask that doesn't fit, doesn't
quite cover the proto-head,
the fainter head, the one thrust forward,

the one with large bared teeth, the one
you need to stay away from.
So you pay close attention

to those bars between you and the horse
and stagger back a couple of feet
when you see: the bars don't fit.

They don't meet at the corners.
They're not even. They were
thrown up in haste.

They look brittle, old.
You wonder if they'll hold.