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Diminutive Dimensions

Gemma D'Auria

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NMQ POETRY SELECTIONS

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DIMINUTIVE DIMENSIONS

The slumbering jungle,
 Enclosed in the tawny-pelted cub,
 Purrs,
 Beguiling the gently stroking
 Hand, disarming
 With its wide, gold eyes,
 Misleading
 With diminutive dimensions.
 For the whole of the violent place
 Of the dark trees and the fierce shadows
 Is packaged there—
 The murderous intention to survive,
 The savage thrust for life, thirst
 For the warm blood,
 The shrill caterwaul.

Here, in the fond deceptions of the crib,
 The infant sleeps,
 Soft-fisted,
 Small . . .

GEMMA D'AURIA

LITTORAL

The sun and moon by alternate roads came up
 In gold and silver, bulging above the horizon.
 The seaward window blazed in alternate dawns.
 The offshore buoy paled with the morning star
 Where it lay all night, a star itself
 Fallen and floating on the sea.
 In a barren shack, upon a bed of brass,
 Like Croesus I lay upon my side,
 And watched the gold, and then the silver tide.

ERNEST KROLL