



Joanne Burns

Buzz & Other Poems

↳BUZZ↳¹

you sleep in a tinge of postmortem green
is there enough memory download remaining
to lipsync *o my charona* the camera
you swallowed is not tax deductible
and is non operable, but you glimpse your last
organs there on the jumble sale table, you implore
the salt shaker to give you a break - you need that
wake up call like you need a caesura; at this point
two jehovah's witnesses, one at a time, buzz on the intercom,
polite as all get out, keen to alert you to the usual
apocalypse

↪ GARAGE ART ↪²

a dark oil stain, a kind of ironic
largesse, on an old garage floor
that's how it is its permanence
impressive enough you can't dance
it away a bucket of sand tipped over it
will not conjure a beach party a river
bank a picnic site it abides there below
the cobwebs and possum piss on the rafters
dank as the inside of that skinned golf ball
he offered as he grabbed at a breast

↪ BREATH ↪

do you hold a licence
to hum that old ballad
from last year's hit list
in the street if you blow
your nose your registration
number will let you know,
the body such an appliance
even if you slump on the chemist's
step like a heritage with a bunch
of cheap chocolates from the \$1 shop
up your sleeve honey ripe cherry comb
you can enjoy a little sweetness trickling
down your chin's resignation the beep
of another overdose insists it's alive such
a bargain come on down

↳ **SIGH** ↳

devout as narcissism
insincere as litanies of
the mumble hours
clumps from a tonsure
session feather the parquetry
tiles: fringes of hair around
bare skulls, circular pathways
to gardens of shrivelled delights;
is a curia eleison a substitute
for savlon – gossip’s tonsils
sure of something on the couch
of sighs, an amphora of iced nero
fetched from the eastern wing;
craniums to be polished till they
shine like a procession is this what
the butler saw –

Author Bio

Joanne Burns is a Sydney poet. Her most recent collection of poems is 'amphora' Giramondo Publishing 2011. She is working on a new collection provisionally titled 'brush'; and is slowly putting together a collection of selected poems encompassing 4 decades of published work. 'kept busy', a recording of joanne burns reading a selection of her work was produced by River Road Press in 2007.

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¹ From *wooing the owl*

² From *wooing the owl*