



Taxidermy and the Gothic

The Horror of Still Life

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First extended study of the Gothic's collusion with taxidermy.

Taxidermy and the Gothic: The Horror of Still Life is the first extended study of the Gothic's collusion with taxidermy. Focusing on contemporary cultural and material texts, it shows how taxidermy's imbrication with Gothic horror is more than skin deep: these are rich discourses stuffed by affinities for corporeal transgressions, the uncanny, and the counterfeit.

Readership

The book will be of interest to scholars of Gothic and horror studies, scholars of animal studies, visual arts, film and media studies, cultural studies, and critical race studies.

Key selling points

- Provides the first extended study of taxidermy's collusion with Gothic horror;
- Presents new archival research of nineteenth-century taxidermy treatises and manuals;
- Advances an original theorization of taxidermy as phenomenological horror;
- Offers timely and fresh close readings of recent work in visual and material culture (contemporary taxidermic artwork) and literary and media arts culture, including Jordan Peele's film *Get Out* (2017) and the tele-series *Tell Me Your Secrets* (2021).

Contents

Introduction: Gothic Taxidermy; Chapter 1: The Two-Headed Kitten: The First Stitches of the Gothic; Chapter 2: Taxidermy and the Horror of Being-There; Chapter 3: Taxidermy and Taboo: Sex and Perversions; Chapter 4: Taxidermy, Fungibility, and the Everyday Gothic Horrors of Black Life; Afterword: All Stitched Up.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Elizabeth Effinger is an associate professor of English at the University of New Brunswick. She is the co-editor of William Blake's *Gothic Imagination: Bodies of Horror*.

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