



Taxidermy and the Gothic

The Horror of Still Life

By Elizabeth Effinger

Pub Date: 04 June 2024

Binding: Hardback

Price: £80.00 / \$110.00

ISBN: 9781839990267

Extent: 250 pages

Size: 153 x 229 mm /

6 x 9 inches

BISAC CATEGORY: LITERARY CRITICISM /

Gothic & Romance LITERARY CRITICISM /

Horror & Supernatural, ART / Film & Video,

CRAFTS & HOBBIES / Taxidermy

BISAC CODE: LIT004180

BIC CODE: DSB

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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.

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 Victorian Kitten: The First Stitches of the Gothic; Chapter 2: The Horror of Being There: Stuffed and Mounted; Chapter 3: Black Body Horror: Taxidermy, Fungibility, and Never Getting Out; Chapter 4: Taxidermy and Taboo: Life's Second Chances and Bad Romances.

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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