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Tactics: The Study of Warfare; The History of Warfare

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BASIL CLEVELAND

Tactics

I. THE STUDY OF WARFARE

It is like a theater of metallurgy, the stage massed
with alloy figures, and we study them—

but without the stage, and the figures go their readiness
uncued, as if by internal assent each lusters

forward, some bending this way, others not.

II. THE HISTORY OF WARFARE

The ceramicist made himself a ceramic knife.

I will cuff the beehive, he said,
and the narrow timbre of the bees

will polish the room with blue light.

Now ceramic deer flee their pitiful containers.