

lizards, frogs, and polliwogs



p o e m s a n d p a i n t i n g s b y

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The Skink

Along the ground I'm found—I slink.
Through grass I pass—I am a skink.
Bite my tail and it releases.
I don't fight back—

I fall to pieces.





The Tortoise

I wear a helmet
On my back.
It's hard
And guards
Me from attack.
And if I wheeze,
Or sneeze,
Or cough,
The shell I dwell in
Won't fall off.
It's glued without
A screw or mortise.
I'm born with it,
For I'm a tortoise.

The Gecko

The gecko's trick is climbing walls.

Like glue it sticks and rarely falls.
Across the ceiling it may roam,
But don't you try this in your home.





The Crocodile and the Alligator

The crocodile's smile is wide
Enough to stuff a pig inside.
But did you know that alligators
Sometimes swallow second graders?

The Iguana

I wouldn't wanna
Be an iguana—
Iguanas are covered with scales.

I wouldn't wanna
Be an iguana—
Iguanas can have spiny tails.

I wouldn't wanna
Be an iguana—
Iguanas are sometimes green.

I wouldn't wanna
Be an iguana—
Except for Halloween.





The Cobra

It's wise to stay clear
Of the dangerous cobra
All months of the year,
Including Octobra.

The Komodo Dragon

I am komodo.
I'm gruesome and gray—
The most massive lizard
That's living today.
Birds and boars
For me are a meal,
Plus all those who don't think
That dragons are real.



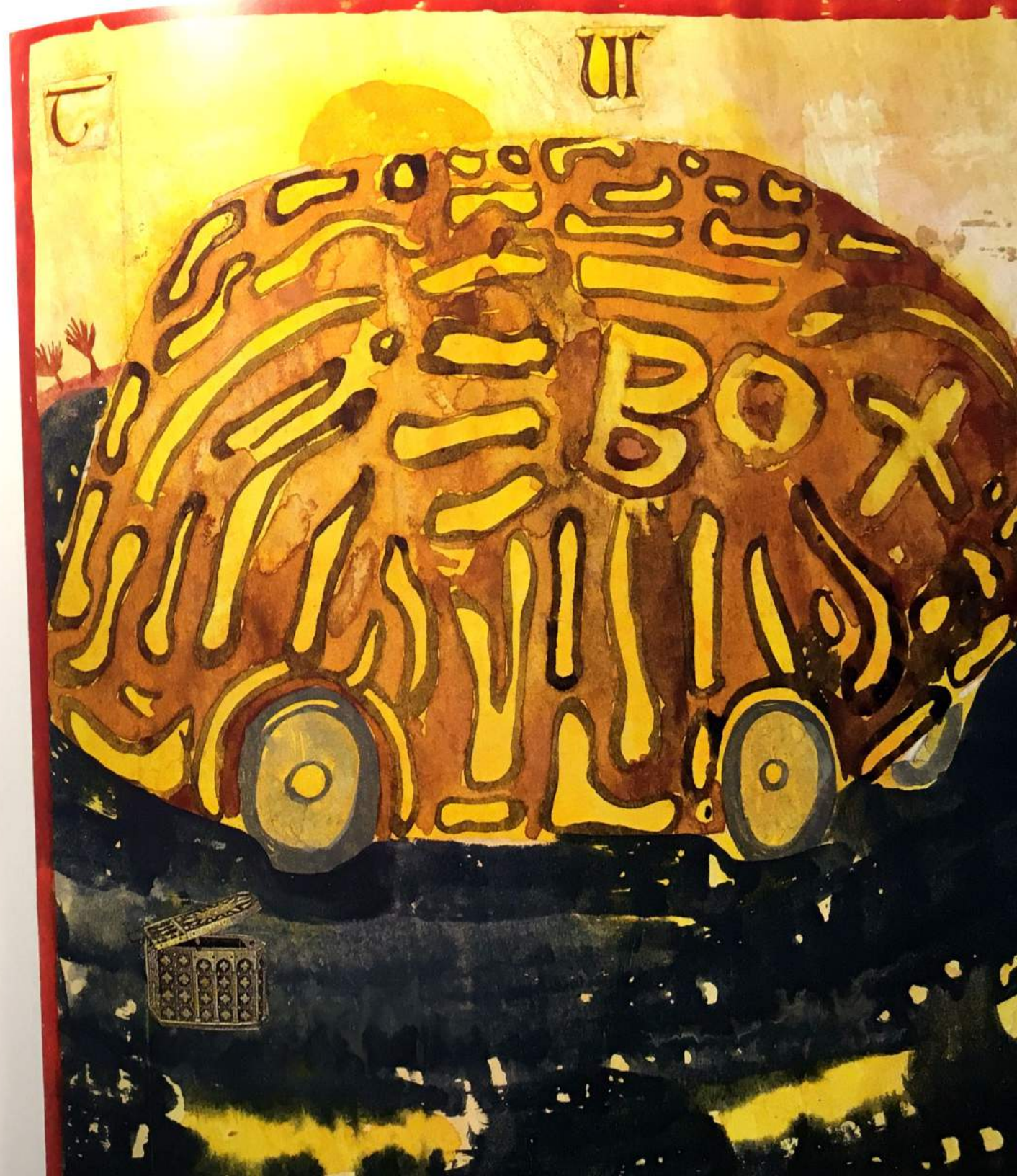


The Gila Monster

They call me monster just because
I have short legs and clumsy claws,
And poison in my jaws,
And look
Like someone's composition book.

The Box Turtle

This bony dome's
My mobile home,
A shell
So swell
In which to roam.
And when I'm scared
By bear or fox,
Inside I hide
Safe in my box.
I close it shut
And go to bed,
Secure from beasts
That *box* my head.





The Python

With thirty feet to squeeze your prey,
python, you take my breath away!