

The Prairie Light Review

Volume 18
Number 2 *Horizons*

Article 23

Spring 5-1-1998

Hands

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College of DuPage

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Recommended Citation

Ledger, Jo-Ann (1998) "Hands," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 18 : No. 2 , Article 23.
Available at: <http://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol18/iss2/23>

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HANDS

When Ben's working,
I see his hands come to life,
they propel a battery of metal
from the disorganized trove
of his heavy treasure box.
Hands, metal, tools
chatter to each other,
one hand
occasionally pausing
to discipline an errant strand of hair.

When Ben's working,
I see that he's rarely impeded
by the rampant
scars and healing cuts
running over his hands.
His small palms and digits
pluck and fuse,
creating something serviceable from
the disjointed gadgets they hover over.

When Ben's working,
his hands speak loudly
but I watch his face,
aware that in his absorption
he will not notice my
frank stare.
I memorize his features
for later internal viewing
when his hands are sleeping.

— *Jo-Ann Ledger*