

The Finest University In The World

Robert Bruce

Mamet
gave me the clean hard line
punching an IBM Selectric
from a small Vermont cabin

Dickinson
showed me stone cold brevity
ignoring self-promotion and the market
thirty years alone in that upstairs room

Hemingway
brought his shotgun to the feast
keeping it simple quick and painless
never missing a drink or a day

Van Gogh
tore his left ear and whole heart
spilling his own blood onto his hands
smearing it across the wretched world

Shakespeare
was boldly in it to eat and prosper
filling the theatres every night
booking land deals every day

Cash
crashed himself into endless dumpsters
moaning from the stink to the Almighty
who continued feeding him the songs

Bukowski
freed me from the holiness act
wheeling in the honesty the humor the beer
and the eternal weight of a single line

Hammett
showed me how to work with style
cutting the flowers down to the dirt
an old school pennies-per-word stoic

These are a few
of my professors
at the finest University
in the world

Their lectures have made me

At times saved me

I'll be paying off tuition
until 2039

Unless Rimbaud
helps me skip the country

And Beckett takes some time off
to show me the ropes of Paris
on the lam