

x-ray barbeque

I rip my chest open I find
blood maggots bricks dirt
manure garbage two-by-four's
nails rusty nails a claw hammer
a bombed-out city a backed-up toilet
a keg of fishhooks.

I rip my chest open I find
snakes frogs lizards a black swamp
nervous wolves flames heat prisoners
a rack a wheel a dungeon
rats ants cinder blocks fish heads.

I rip my chest open I find
an animal on the highway
flies swarming around restless corpses
a bloated steaming raccoon carcass
rotting raw meat broken bones torn flesh
a hunting license a gun rack
deer intestines in the snow
severed pheasant heads + feet on newspaper
empty shotgun shells.

I rip my chest open I find
a slaughterhouse a press a torture chamber
winged demons on ice
evil farm animals up to no good
an earthworm spilling its guts on a hook
a neglected graveyard stones kicked over.

I rip my chest open I find
shattered glass baseball bats a blacksmith anvil
angry horses a rabid goat
a frightened monkey in a space capsule
a pressure cooker an incubator
a shovel a knife a deep dark hole
and daylight.