

I stand before you, but you do not see me
The accomplished artist checks colour and light
You do not perceive my heart and soul
My dreams, my hopes, all in your sight
Today I am the silversmith apprentice
Holding candlestick and checking the line
Herkomer's vase upon the bench
I guess that maybe it is a sign?
Your teacher, your tutor, anything else?
This candlestick is 'out of true'
Echoing my feelings on this cold day
But I cannot speak of my love for you
Like the silver I have to stand upright
In whatever pose you choose for me
Groom, circus worker or just 'The Boy'
A mannequin or an effigy
Silver is the metal that covers you heart
Once cast a thing of beauty and grace
But with a strength that makes it solid
The smoothness reflecting your flawless face
Like the horses, I await your praise
'Great muscle, strong neck, fine hair'
I yearn to be more than your subject
Of love I cannot speak, I do not dare
Oh dear Lucy, I wish I could reveal
My devotion and pure love for you
But it seems art is your passion
So my love must remain 'out of true'

Portrait Of Alex Skinner – 'Out of True' by Lucy Kemp-Welch

<https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/out-of-true-239196/search/2024--venue:bushey-museum-and-art-gallery-3581--makers:lucy-elizabeth-kemp-welch-18691958/page/2>