

TIM CRAIGHEAD

La Selva, 2011
Oil on Linen, 40 in x 30 in



courtesy: Gebert Contemporary, Santa Fe, New Mexico

MOON CHUNG-HEE

Asking Directions

I wish they'd show me the way
when they tell me to go back to first mind.
Empty is full, they say.
Riddling people seem more complex.
Don't praise naked trees.
Watch for fresh growth
that yearns to hang
one more new leaf like fame.
Some poets,
afraid they'll be forgotten,
polish blank space on dull rocks by foothills.
I've lost my way—
is my home in a grass blade
or in a rock?
Mysteries sprout as I go along.

*(Translated from the Korean
by Richard Silberg and Clare You)*

Moon Chung-hee was born in Korea in 1947. Among her poetry books are *Wild Rose; For Men; Come, False Love*; and *I'm the Moon*. Her poems have been translated into several foreign languages, and two volumes of her work have been translated and published in English: *Wind Flower* (Hawks Publishing, 2004) and *Woman on the Terrace* (White Pine Press, 2007). This poem appears in a forthcoming volume of Moon Chung-hee's poetry, *I Must Be the Wind*, from White Pine Press.

Richard Silberg and **Clare You** have translated several books together: *The Three Way Tavern*, by Ko Un (University of California Press, 2006), winner of the Northern California Book Reviewers Award in Translation; *Flowers Long for Stars* by Oh Sae Young (Tamal Vista Publications, 2005); and Ko Un's *This Side of Time* (White Pine Press, 2012). Born in South Korea, Clare You is the recently retired director of the Center for Korean Studies at University of California, Berkeley. Richard Silberg is a poet and critic, most recently the author of *The Horses: New and Selected Poems* and *Deconstruction of the Blues*, for which he received a PEN-Oakland Josephine Miles Literary Award. He is associate editor of *Poetry Flash*, and lives in Berkeley, California.