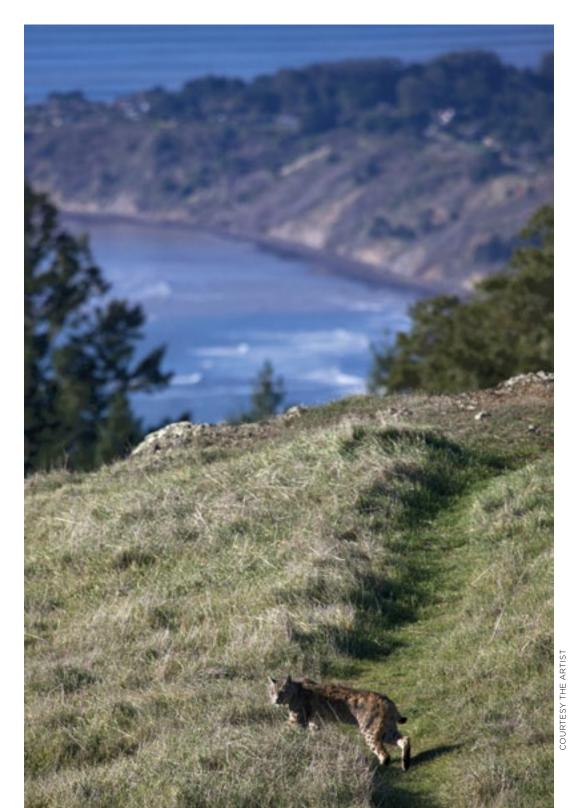
TRISH CARNEY

Bobcat Bolinas Ridge, 2009 Color pigment print



ALLISON DELAUER

Habitat

The hot air hugs the freeway softens asphalt to liquid By dusk an orange halo bleaches starlight and moonlight

You see that girl who runs up the mountain barefoot, dressed in a nightgown? I say, she turns into Bobcat. You think, Coyote.

The men in the Cadillac won't find her. You claim, the cops have her cited spread-eagle in the back of some Mustang.

I say you're lying. We both know: no one can touch her not without burning to embers—charred, nothing.

She cuts past the hedges finds the path to dark waters past yucca, past scrub oak, juniper and sage. She cools her feet while the last of the poppies wrap into themselves as they do when night falls while we draw our shades.

Allison DeLauer's texts have appeared in Five Fingers Review, Mirage Periodical #7, The Throwback, burritophile. com, and SFStation.com, and are forthcoming in the anthology Our Place: Writings about the Earth. Her most recent performance collaboration, *Umanità: Book I*, was developed and premiered at Teatro dei Venti in Modena, Italy, in 2013, and is currently on tour. She lives in Oakland, California.