

**ABDOURAHMAN
WABERI**

Sepia

Referencing Lyrics by
Leonard Cohen

together, they shared *du thé et des oranges*
tea and oranges
and sweetly made love
in a folk ballad's perfect calm

from this embrace
the only trace is a single image, just one

guitar and long hair exhausted
on the shore of the past
and beneath our feet
the crack's invisible river
soaking up in its grooves
the capricious contours of tune

—Translated from the French by Nancy Naomi Carlson

An acclaimed author from Djibouti Africa, **Abdourahman Waberi** has published several books of fiction and poetry. He has received many awards and fellowships throughout his career. His work, originally published in French, has been translated into many languages, including English, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian. He teaches French and Francophone literature and Creative Writing at The George Washington University.

Nancy Naomi Carlson has authored seven titles (translated and non-translated), including *Hammer With No Master*, translations of René Char (2016). She received a grant from the NEA to translate Abdourahman Waberi's first collection of poems, which was a "Best Translated Book Award" finalist for 2015. "Sepia" comes from her current Waberi book project: *Naming the Dawn*.

DAVID MOLESKY

Detour from Valhalla, 2009
Oil on linen, 58 x 45 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST