

NICK BROWN

Highway 5 Grazing, 2012
Oil on Panel, 60 x 36 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

REGINA COLONIA-WILLNER

Back from Travel

Back from travel, consider
your baggage deconstructed.

When you left, the untutored leaves of the apricot tree,
the shelves of blue-salt whispers, and match boxes to keep
the flame awake through a high window remained.

Now that you're back, what you've gathered,
like a tangerine cloud of crickets,
digests the previous leaves tattooed on the timber's hip.

With a twist of a leaf, the rites of entry and exit turn.
The one who sets hand to the wine-dark plow
does not look to what she left behind.

Plummets of question marks burst into fireflies,
and ghazal rivers we carry
toward each other kiss for the first time.

Back from travel, consider
the way the scarlet macaw
blooms in its plumage.

Regina Colonia-Willner was born in Rio de Janeiro, grew up in Paris, and moved to the United States in 1985. She has published four collections of poetry and short stories, including *Canção para o Totem (Song for the Totem)*, which won the Jabuti Prize, Brazil's Pulitzer. Fluent in five languages, Colonia-Willner has worked as a journalist, and served as writer-in-residence at the University of Georgia, Athens. She holds a PhD in neuroscience.