

JOHN WHALEN

Inside a Tree

Sunlight leans you toward a pretty pine
with translucent needles, a flurry of wind.
Yet she never intends an ocean voyage.
Owns property in the middle of summer.

If you live inside a tree, then sunlight's the thing.
A history in one place, though there are other places.
Inside your tree—underside of the moon
chewed off.

Inside your tree—a sideways-walking coyote.
If you live inside a tree, Coyote dreams.
If you live inside a tree all winter in
Washington State and go home to Australia in May,

it's winter again.
You never have summer all the years you are a tree.

John Whalen is the author of *Caliban*, published by Lost Horse Press in 2002. *In Honor of the Spigot* was published in 2010 and won the Gribble Press Chapbook Award. Whalen's newest book, *Above the Pear Trees*, was the winner of the 2014 Floating Bridge Chapbook Award. His manuscript "The Johnson Poems Heart Attack Geological Survey" was a finalist for the 2020 Catamaran Poetry Prize.

DAVID LIGARE

Landscape with Deer, 2019
Oil on linen, 18 x 24 in.



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