

BILL SCOTT

The Last Days of August, 2015
Oil on linen 43 x 39 in



COURTESY HOLLIS TAGGART GALLERIES, NEW YORK

MARCELIJUS MARTINAITIS

Intimacy

Already you've washed summer's light from your hands,
and have lit the fire, so that it would be easier for us to be quiet together.
And shadows run across my dead ancestors' bed,
and last year's embers come to life, painful as a flower.

Our faces are close—as though meeting over the cradle
of a sick child. And you don't say anything to me.
A dim peace has spread across the fields,
and children beat at the sun in a puddle.

There is nothing to say—as though words were wooden.
The roads have widened, so that the sun may roll down them.
Only you protect the fire with cupped palms
as though it could warm our tiny country.

—Translated from the Lithuanian by Laima Vince

Marcelijus Martinaitis (1936–2013) was a Lithuanian poet and essayist and the recipient of the Lithuanian National Prize in Literature. He was also an active participant in Lithuania's independence movement. Martinaitis published ten collections of poetry and three books of essays in addition to plays and screenplays. His poetry has been translated into a number of European languages.

Laima Vince is a literary translator, poet, novelist, literary journalist, and playwright. She has translated Marcelijus Martinaitis's poetry since she was his student at Vilnius University in 1988. Vince has published two collections of Martinaitis's persona poems in English translation: *The Ballads of Kukutis* (Arc Publications) and *K. B., The Suspect* (White Pines Press).