

LANI IRWIN

Memento, 2015
Oil on linen, 43 x 31 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

SHEANA OCHOA

Hands

I see them daily managing their way
around my body, my house, the pages
I turn. Hands of my father, sinewy
and scarred, they splinter the cold.
Hands of my mother, feline
and fearless, they wade the moon's
pools. With age I have noticed cracks
crowding the skin. Perhaps
there was a time when my fingers
awoke spring petals from hibernation,
crafted Nahuatl sundials, slayed
Minotaur charging by the sea.
There is a map in the seat of my palm
—a plan of a city I've never been,
instructions to the lost poetry
of Sappho, or a codified explanation
of the Milky Way—but a wheat-
brown mole covers the key.

Sheana Ochoa is the author of *Stella! Mother of Modern Acting*, a biography of acting legend Stella Adler. Her work can be found in various journals and magazines including, *Salon*, *Film International*, and CNN.com. She is currently working on a novel of historical fiction, as well as a memoir on illness and her forthcoming collection of poetry, *Quiet Crimes*.