

DOROTHY ROBINSON

Not For Long, But Then Again, 2016
Oil on canvas, 48 x 54 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

STEFFI PRESSESKY

God

—After César Vallejo

At the grocery store behind the butcher counter, men arrange meat to be sold that day. Spatula in hand, one shapes ground chuck with imprecise, meditative motions. A second turns and sends a rack of lamb through an electric saw, while a third deposits a bag of shrimp into the display case with a sweep of his arm. I place an order with the last man for a pound and a half of sole. He is kind and sad. Stooped in the counter window, he estimates the weight of a fillet in his hand. He straightens and hoists it onto the scale. *That okay?* he asks. I nod and he wraps up the fish. As he does this, I imagine he is preparing alms for me and that I am being blessed.

Steffi Pressesky's poem was awarded the runner-up for the 5th annual George Hitchcock Memorial Poetry Prize for UCSC students. She is a prose poet trained by Gary Young. She has work appearing in *Miramar* and, now, *Catamaran*. Proud to have studied at the University of California, Santa Cruz, for her undergraduate career, Pressesky plans to graduate in the spring of 2018.