

LINDA CHRISTENSEN

Studio, 2012
Oil on Canvas, 48 x 46 in



courtesy: Gail Severn Gallery

CASSIE PREMO STEELE

In City Lights Bookstore

This is the place
on the shelf
where my poetry would be
between Stafford and Stein
and instead I hold
the invisible spine,
clutch my bag of bruised fruit,
sit by my daughter
and write to you
a poem of emptiness,
a song of what I didn't get,
a list of words poured from my head
fermented in valleys
and taken to bed
across continents,
trains and airlines combine
four letters mirrored in your eyes
that come out as bottles
drunk until sunrise,
your lips meeting mine
in this poem of air and bread.

Cassie Premo Steele's poetry has been nominated twice for a Pushcart Prize. She is the author of nine books of poetry, essays, and fiction, and writes a monthly column for LiteraryMama.com. This poem was written while on tour for her latest poetry book, *The Pomegranate Papers*. Her most recent creation is a musical album called *The Pomegranate Songs*. www.cassiepremosteele.com