

## ANDREW SCHELLING

# The Business of Books

The people's  
republic of Berkeley  
once had many collectives  
(workers owned the business: no boss  
but yourselves

"Bookpeople" in the eighties  
we'd wheel carts up wide aisles  
box cutter in hand  
to repack gay sunshine & fix your VW titles,  
handbooks to grow dope

Workers wore ponytails or eyeshadow  
women & men  
at the same tasks  
a cook fixed grand lunches  
Softball, rock 'n' roll  
(maybe too much cocaine)

We all learned to drive truck  
cartons heading up to Lavender Menace  
in Toronto,  
City Lights over the bay

and published some too  
Dorn's *Gunslinger*  
that slick initial G a lever-  
action rifle part designed by anarcho-graphic wizard  
M. Myers,  
At 5:00 P.M. you knock off and get beer,

Now picture those voiceless Amazon robots  
whirring  
up & down aisles to pack books  
No long hair no drug sweat no  
softball no anarchist jokes  
What if no fun and no lunch—?

Andrew Schelling's recent books include *From the Arapaho Songbook* (poetry; La Alameda Press, 2011) and *The Real People of Wind and Rain* (essays; Singing Horse Press, 2014). In 2017 Counterpoint Press released *Tracks Along the Left Coast*, a folkloric account of West Coast ethnography, California Indian lore, linguistics, and poetry. He lives in the Southern Rocky Mountains of Colorado and teaches at Naropa University.

## TIMOTHY MCFARLANE

*Divergent Truths Amid Whispers*, 2019  
Acrylic and collage on panel, 30 x 40 in



COURTESY BRIDGETTE MAYER GALLERY