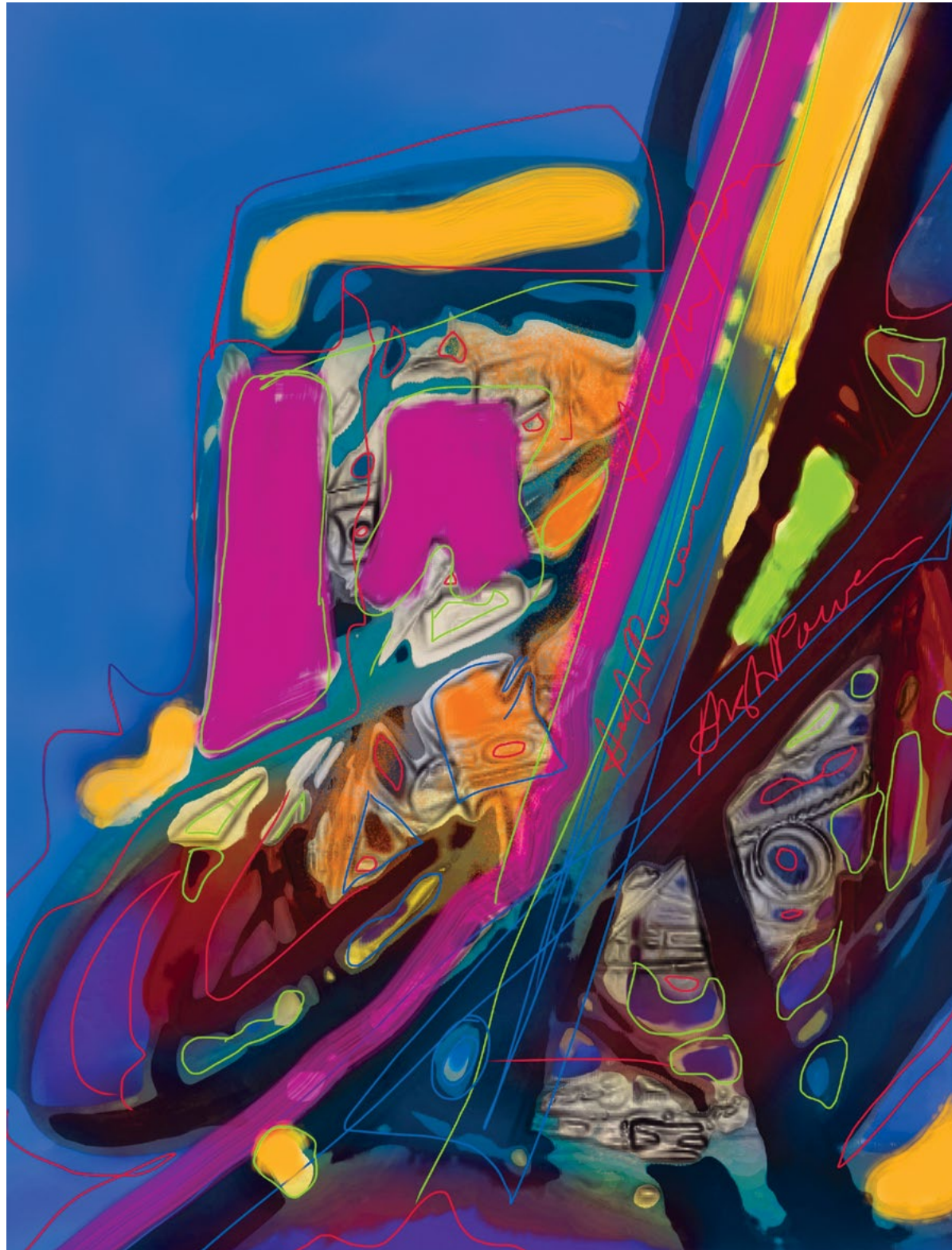


KATHLEEN FORSYTHE

High Power Gadget, 2016
Digital on acrylic, 30 x 40 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

FARNAZ FATEMI

The Woman in the White Chador

stands on the flat roof of a house in Masuleh.
She left lunch on the stove to walk out

on the layer cake of terraced houses on the hillside,
one row above the other, roofs turning into roads below.

She is not an idea.
Erect, draped, one arm crosses

the bright white of her chest to hold the swath in place.

Leucistic bird: occurrence.
The windows below her are wide open.

The fog rolls up the hill below us,
peers over our shoulders and into all the houses

as if to move us inside.
She could call us to prayer and I would.

She was born where I wasn't.
She is so white she shines

through the muck of others' disbelief. The day stays foggy.

She is not an idea, and I didn't
put her there. She's not there to jump.

She's there to say she did not jump.

Farnaz Fatemi is fortunate to write with others in Santa Cruz, California. Her poetry and lyric essays have been published in *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Delaware Poetry Review*, *Comstock Review* and other anthologies and journals, and have been recognized by the Litquake Poets of the Verge Writing Contest and Best of the Net Nonfiction, among others.