

SARAH MCCOUBREY

Snooks Pond, Tank, 2008
oil on panel, 24 x 22 1/2 in.



COURTESY LOCKS GALLERY

EVAN BAUER

Thistledown Wishes

A childhood wish is a thistledown seed:
you cup it in your tiny hands,
raise it to your mouth,
whisper,
then release it to the wind.

You watch until it floats past the tree line
then lose interest, return to laughing
and romping in the sprinklers.

But your parents remain fixated
on the spot where your secret words
dipped out of sight, praying
that the whims of the universe
keep your wish airborne.

You don't realize you're grown
until you venture out and find that
every wish you blew to the wind got
stuck in a gnarled, barren tree just beyond the ridge.

But look how ferociously those fluffy seeds cling
to the branches—
see how they light up in the afternoon sun.

Evan Bauer was born and raised in Santa Cruz, California. He is currently an undergraduate student at University of California, Berkeley, studying English, creative writing, and Japanese. He works as an editor of the university's oldest prose journal, *Berkeley Fiction Review*. His poetry has appeared in *Glassworks* and *Cimarron Review*.