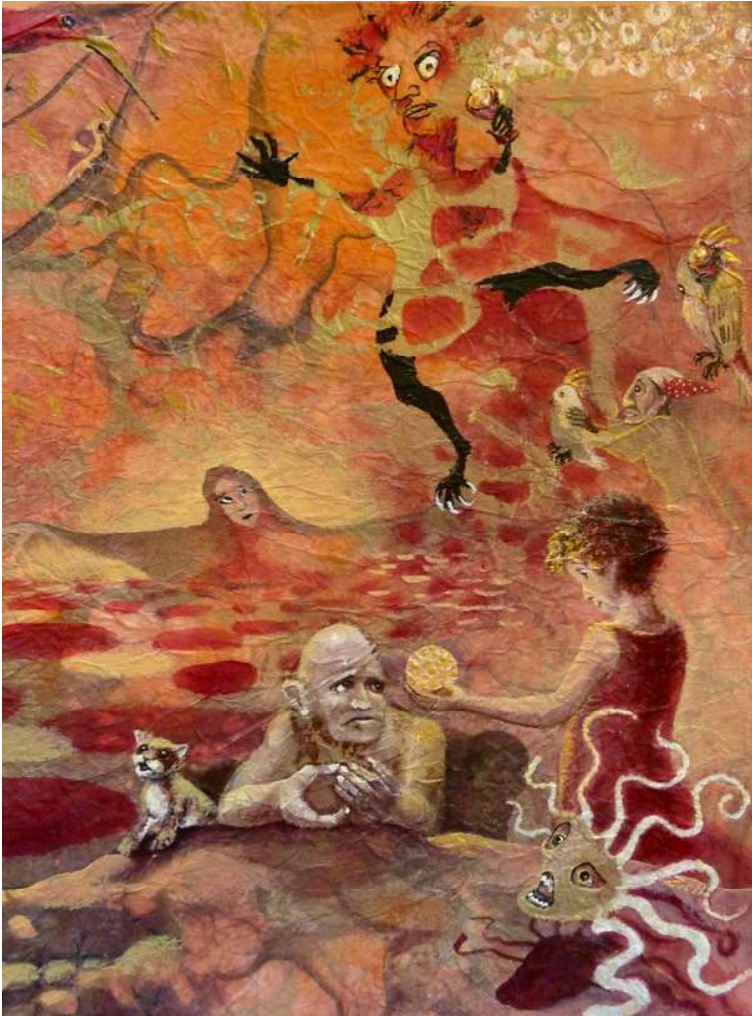


JANE ZICH

Negotiating the Underworld, 2019
Acrylic on printed mulberry paper affixed to canvas, 16 x 12 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

SALGADO MARANHÃO

Tribute to Alberta Hunter

—Translated from the Portuguese by Alexis Levitin

You traversed the twentieth century
happily, grace,
a heron of grace,
you knew injustice,
slime, and tears,
like all our folk, our race,
and nonetheless you were the song,
the essence of triumph,
millennia of beauty
met in your voice,
the liveliness of faith—
happily hidden
in the élan of rites,
in ivory and charms,
in pearls, in seashells,
and in the blues.
You crossed the twentieth century
howling at the sky
to the last lyric of joy,
the last syllable of desire.
You knew America's dives
and its atomic heart.

And nonetheless you flowed toward
primal air
and grew eternal in the cosmos
with a soul of flowers and of stones.

Salgado Maranhão, winner of all of Brazil's major poetry awards, has toured the United States five times, presenting his work at over one hundred colleges and universities. In addition to fourteen books of poetry, he has written song lyrics and made recordings with some of Brazil's leading jazz and pop musicians. He has published three collections of his work in English: *Blood of the Sun* (Milkweed Editions, 2012), *Tiger Fur* (White Pine Press, 2015), and *Palávora* (Dialogos Books, 2019). On November 13, 2017, Maranhão received an honorary doctorate for his cultural achievements from the Federal University of Piauí in Teresina, Brazil.

Alexis Levitin has published forty-four books in translation, mostly poetry from Portugal, Brazil, and Ecuador. In addition to three books by Salgado Maranhão, his work includes Clarice Lispector's *Soulstorm* (1989) and Eugénio de Andrade's *Forbidden Words* (2003), both from New Directions. He has served as a Fulbright lecturer at the Universities of Porto and Coimbra, Portugal; the Catholic University in Guayaquil, Ecuador; and the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil, and has held translation residencies at Banff, Canada; Straelen, Germany (twice); and the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center, in Italy.