

SALGADO MARANHÃO

Seal 7

When, in the end, will we read
the seal of this today
in the delirium of the piercing
that tears the tongue?

How many carats of
the aboriginal to swell our pride?

The blood that stains the afternoon
on the wall of centuries
sings of empire and the shack.

It's all infected,
every piece and parcel: life
restocking
in the coyote's den.

Give me at least that kingdom
of failing love, oh morning,
my concubine, give me
that cross of flowers.

A dry river flows through
the labyrinth, a
cyber symbol flows
in the drum that echoes
the border between peoples.

Yet, in the end, invincible
time is our game,
and each of us only dies
his proper death.

—Translated from the Portuguese by Alexis Levitin

Salgado Maranhão has published ten volumes of poetry and has won all the major poetry prizes available in Brazil. He has also collaborated with some of Brazil's major composers and musicians. Accompanied by his translator, Alexis Levitin, he has toured extensively in the United States with his two books *Blood of the Sun* (Milkweed Editions, 2012) and *Tiger Fur* (White Pines Press, 2015).

Alexis Levitin's translations have appeared in well over 200 magazines, including *Grand Street*, *Keryon Review*, *Partisan Review*, *APR*, *New Letters*, and *Prairie Schooner*. His forty books of translations include Clarice Lispector's *Soul-storm* and Eugenio de Andrade's *Forbidden Words*, both from New Directions.

BILL SCOTT

Turning Time to Flowers, 2014
Oil on canvas, 45 x 57 in

