

DAVID MOLESKY

Existential Threat, 2013
Oil on linen, 10 x 16 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

GARY YOUNG

The fire grew larger every day, an enormous arrow of flame pointed at our house. For three days I hiked through the woods to avoid roadblocks, and watered the garden and my trees. The air was tinted yellow by the smoke, and even things close at hand seemed far away. The few birds that remained sang songs I didn't recognize, songs I'd never heard. Our house was saved, but when the flames turned away for good, I felt defeated. If it all had burned, we'd have been free. Holding nothing but a few photographs and a single suitcase, we might have carried on, moving fast, traveling light.

Gary Young is a poet, artist, printer, and educator. His numerous awards include recognition from the Poetry Society of America—the 2013 Lucille Medwick Memorial Award (2013), the Shelley Memorial Award (2009), the William Carlos Williams Award (2003), and the Lyric Poem Award (2001). Young has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities, and his print work is represented in the Museum of Modern Art, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Getty Center, and special collection libraries throughout the country. He teaches creative writing and is the director of the Cowell Press at the University of California, Santa Cruz.