

## GINTARAS GRAJAUSKAS

### Screen

this thing into which we gaze  
is called a screen

it only looks flat  
but is really like a basket  
full of little dots  
jumping around like  
shining Christmas  
fleas

when the dots receive a command  
they obediently stand in their places  
and muster into a “tree,” “skyscraper,”  
“Balkan crisis,” or “Leo DiCaprio”  
(just look how his white shirt  
shines—it’s because of the dots)

so if you see something  
terrifying—don’t be afraid,  
and don’t be fooled

there are no jungles there, no floods  
nor zombies with chainsaws

but I’m not saying that nothing is there  
(as the benighted proclaim)

there is an endless abundance

of dots

—Translated from the Lithuanian by Rimas Uzgiris

Since childhood, **Gintaras Grajauskas** has lived and worked in Klaipėda, Lithuania. He graduated from the S. Šimkus High School for Music and then the Lithuanian National Conservatory’s Klaipėda branch in the Jazz Department. From 1990 to 1994, he worked in radio and television, and since 1994, he has been the editor of the Klaipėda literary journal *Gintaro Lašai*. Since 2008, he has headed the Klaipėda State Drama Theater. Grajauskas has published seven books of poetry, two essay collections, one novel, and one collection of plays. His work has won numerous awards, including the Z. Gėlė Prize for best poetry debut (1994) and the Poetry Spring Maironis Prize for best poetry collection (2000).

**Rimas Uzgiris** is a poet, translator, editor, and critic. His work has appeared in *Barrow Street*, *AGNI*, *Atlanta Review*, the *Iowa Review*, *Quiddity*, the *Hudson Review*, and other journals. He is the translation editor and primary translator of *How the Earth Carries Us: New Lithuanian Poets*, translator of *Caravan Lullabies* by Ilzė Butkutė, and translator of forthcoming collections by Judita Vaičiūnaitė and Gintaras Grajauskas. He holds a PhD in philosophy from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and an MFA in creative writing from Rutgers University–Newark. Recipient of a Fulbright Scholar Grant and a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Translation Fellowship, he teaches translation at Vilnius University.

## PATRICK APPLEBY

*Untitled, 2015*  
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 30 7/8 x 40 in



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