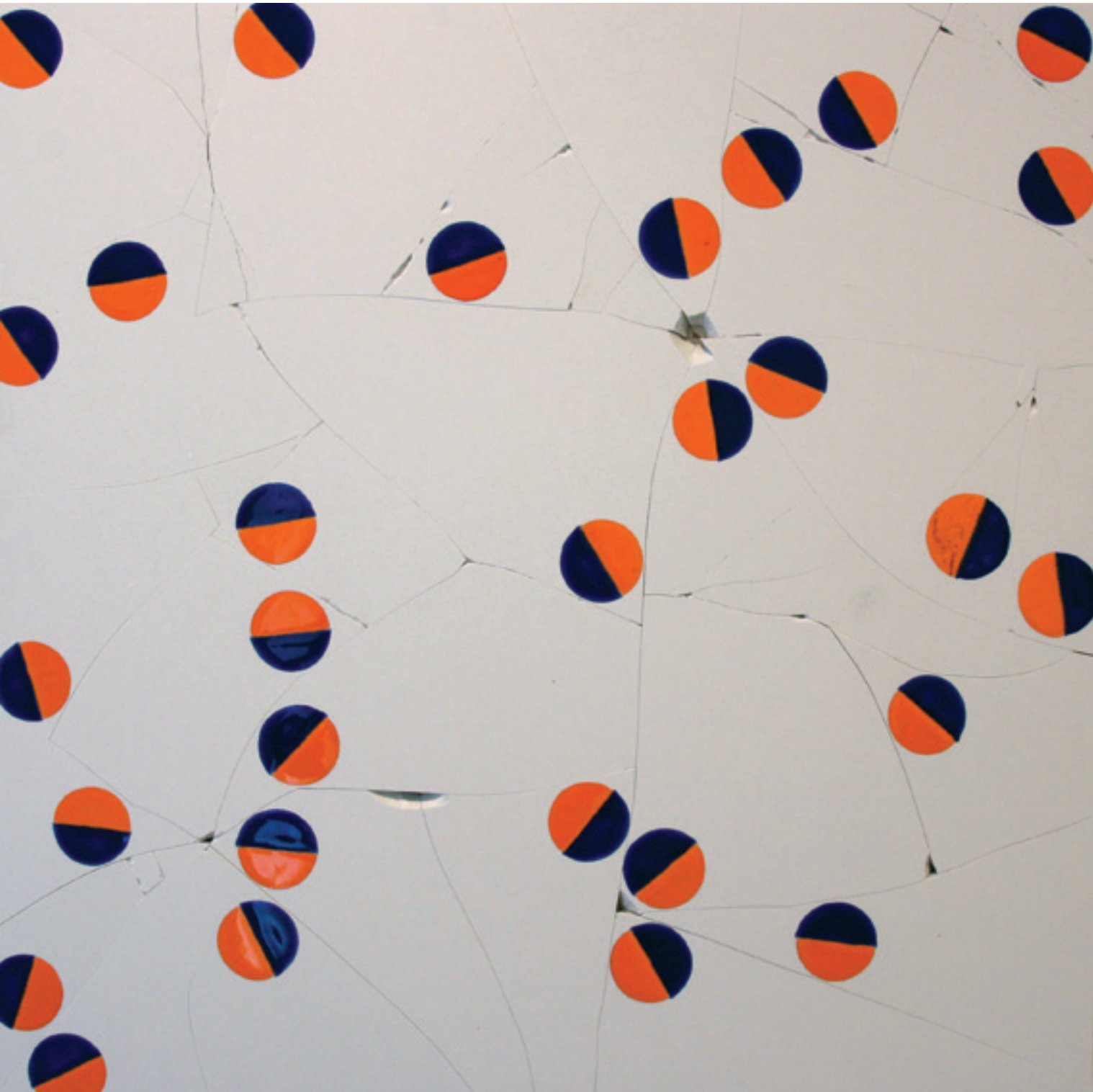


## JIM MELCHERT

*Vertices for Dancing #27, 2016*  
Glazed broken porcelain,  
23 1/2 x 23 1/2 in



COURTESY ANGLIM GILBERT GALLERY

## DANUSHA LAMÉRIS

### Hawks

*for Luna*

It was late afternoon and we were standing on the deck overlooking the gray swath of the Pacific, when my friends' daughter, then four, turned to me and pointed at the hawks flying in the distance. *I can call them if I want*, she said, tilting back her head to let out a long, fierce caw, which floated up over the marsh and above the trees. At first, nothing. Then—a slash in the distance. And in the next moment there it was—nearly above us, wings spread wide, the color of rust. And then, another, the two floating in silent circles while she sounded her cries. The primal cry of the human, raw and plain. The call to prayer, the weeping at the wall, the singer's highest, most broken, note. Whatever it is we send up into oblivion, waiting. Haven't I, too, called out? Haven't I beseeched something winged to do my bidding? And here she was, calling, and here they came, in answer, this hinged assembly, hovering toward us on the wind. Ten? Twenty? Enough to darken the heavens above where we stood, weighted in place, pinned by a cover of raptors. Bone swallows, snake eaters, sharp-sighted angels of prey, their scaled feet clutching the empty sky.

**Danusha Laméris** has been published or is forthcoming in *Best American Poetry 2017*, the *New York Times*, the *American Poetry Review*, the *Gettysburg Review*, *Tin House*, and the *Sun*, as well as in a variety of other journals and anthologies. Her first book, *The Moons of August* (2014), was chosen by Naomi Shihab Nye as the winner of the Autumn House Poetry Prize and was a finalist for the Milt Kessler Poetry Book Award.