

BARBARA ARGENTO DENNIG

Arrabbiata, 2016
Oil on Canvas, 40 x 60 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

ALAN FELDMAN Waterfront Property

It's good to have read, so that you can find a name
for what you see. Gooseberries. Do you remember that story by Chekhov?

An owner of a humble estate
thinks it would be paradise to grow them. A glory to show off the sour
fruit to visitors. What
are we doing here? I ask myself. Growing gooseberries.
Just another way to live for things, but not
the soul. And yet the crowds that come by car, by ferry, to stare at the sea,
feel it makes them larger.
And the owners of these houses, jumbled against the ocean, must believe
they've come as far as they can, to the margin
that divides one's possessions from the inexpressible: Here is the protean
nothingness of sheer existence, the sea, and here
is my property. And me. And the gooseberries I hold so dear.

Alan Feldman's *Immortality* won the 2016 Massachusetts Book Award. A new collection, *The Golden Coin*, received the Four Lakes Prize and will appear in early 2018. With his wife, the painter Nan Hass Feldman, he has taught on cruise ships and, in the summer, sails his double-keeled sloop, *Wayward*, out of Wellfleet on Cape Cod Bay.