

DAVID LEE

Tierra Malvada

“Esta copa pase de mi”

The boy in novice apprenticeship
training to become a recovering Protestant
sits alone, his mind deciduous
and brittle as a tedium of Pauline scripture

From the fingertips of locust branches
a windless night drapes
the flood of starlight
across parched stretch marks
on the earth’s belly

one’s entire life, then, a rehearsal
a screen door already slammed
and the echo only heard by the moon
watching himself dissolve into blackness
a visionary self-portrait of the damned

: wrapped in a sable robe of stitched guilt
concealing a cotton T-shirt of white shame
even colors being a potential source
of the thousand and one ways to sin and die

*Silver City, Nevada
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David Lee is the author of two dozen books of poetry, including *Last Call* and *Bluebonnets, Firewheels, and Brown-Eyed Susans*. His awards include multiple fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities, the Western States Book Award, the Mountains and Plains Independent Booksellers Association Award, the Critics’ Choice Award, the Elkhorn Poetry Prize, and several Utah Book Awards. He has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award. He was Utah’s first poet laureate and in 2001 was runner-up for poet laureate of the United States.

WILLIAM BALTHAZAR ROSE

Winter View of Houses, 2016
Oil on canvas, 20 x 24 in



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