

ELIZABETH TRACY

Geography of Scent, 2020
Oil on three canvases, 40 x 90 in.

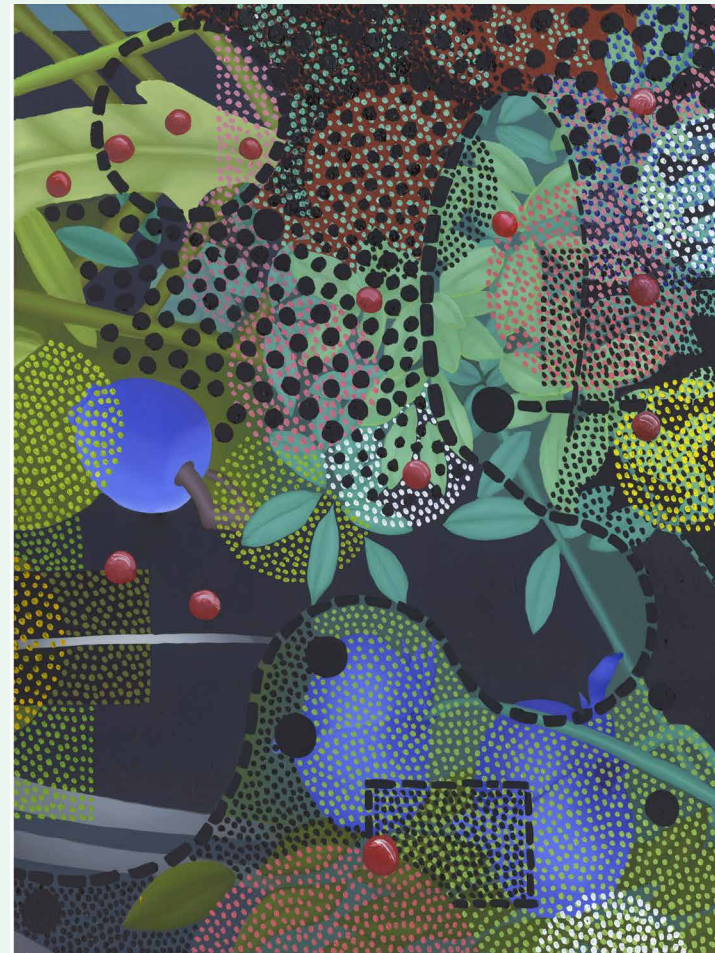


COURTESY THE ARTIST

FRANK PAINO

Spring Peeper Gospel

The hellebores are yesterday's news
to the jonquils who nod
their shirred bonnets
in time with the breeze.
Here, winter's white hunger eases
into vernal pools, conjures
these tattered legions from mud
crypts, from shield bark
and leaf rot,
their primal chorus spilling
down night's corridors.
I know too well the hunger
which gives rise to their song,
have no need to make from it
a parable that riddles eternity.
It is enough to know this world
will go on without me.



Frank Paino's fourth full-length collection, *Dark Octaves*, won the Longleaf Book Prize and will be published next winter.