

JOSÉ OSEGUERA

Where the Music Comes From

—for *Luna Aurélia Oseguera*

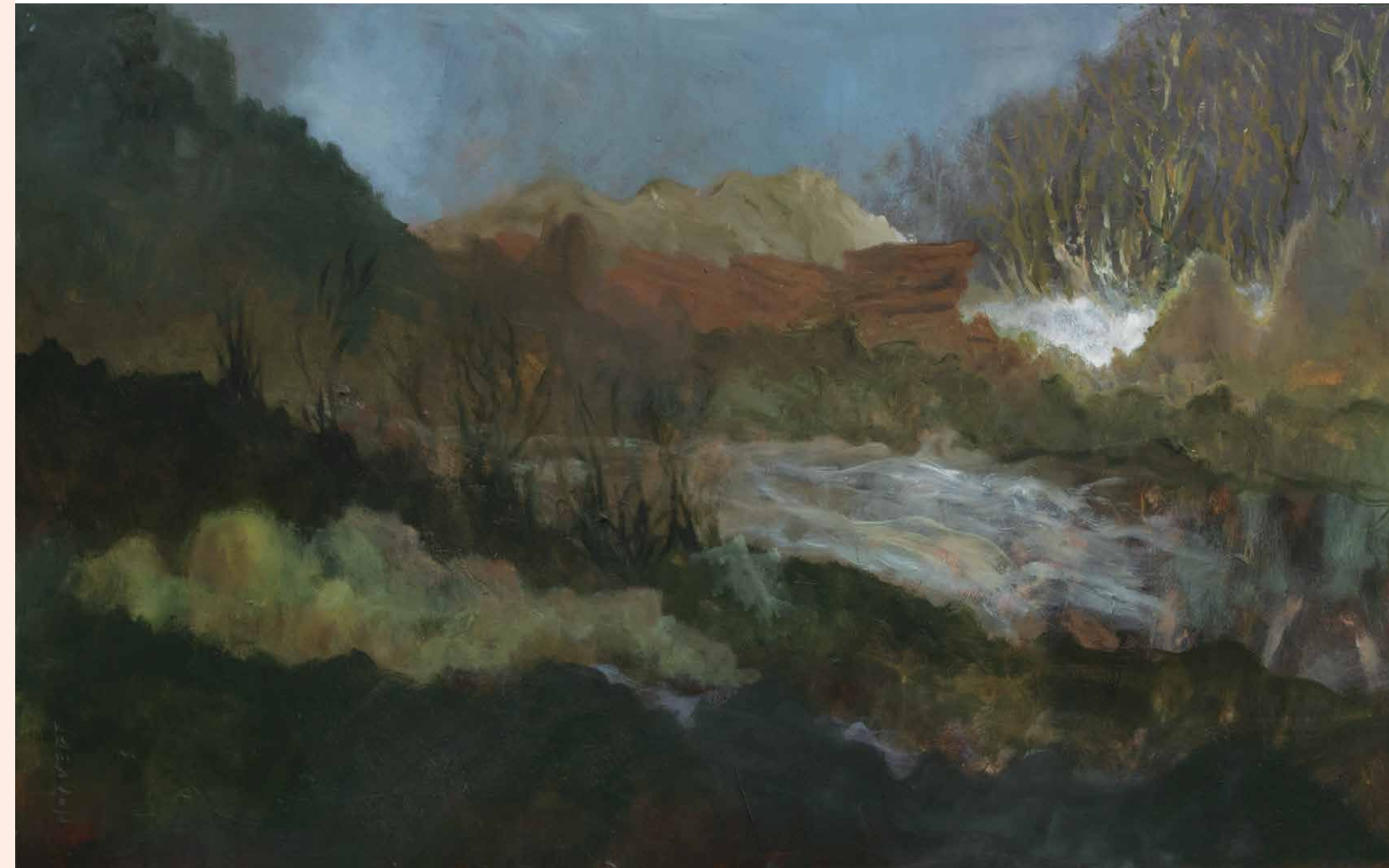
“She moved when I was playing guitar,”
my wife said, her palm flat on the copper strings.
As the life within her rippled beneath her rounded flesh,
I saw how our daughter interpreted the strange sounds
piercing through layers of muscle, fat,
and water as melody—
music to be alive to.

I took the guitar from my wife
and plucked a melody from its body,
and I saw how my son slid his hand
into the hole past the vibrations,
the sound, the darkness,
unafraid of what might live in its depths.
He scratched the inner surface and smiled,
relieved to have finally discovered
where the music comes from.

José Oseguera is a Los Angeles-based writer of poetry, short fiction, and literary nonfiction. His writing has been featured in *Emrys Journal*, *Hiram Poetry Review*, *Inlandia*, and *The Literarian*. He was named one of the Sixty-Four Best Poets of 2019 by the Black Mountain Press. His work has also won the Nancy Dew Taylor Award. He is the author of the poetry collection *The Milk of Your Blood* (Kelsay Books, 2020).

PAUL HOTVEDT

The Tabor's Sound, 2022
Oil on panel, 24 x 38 in.



COURTESY THE ARTIST