

ANDREA BORSUK

Continuous Procession, 2015
Oil on Wood Panel, 30 x 40 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

MAGGIE SMITH

London Plane

The plane tree peels
to yellowed newsprint,

littering the yard
with stiff sleeves of bark

collaged ivory and dove.
A gray squirrel stands

on its hind legs, gently
combing clover

with its paws, as if
it were fur on the back

of some animal it loves
and tends to.

Of everywhere
I've lived, this is home

because my daughter
draws it: periwinkle

crayon for the peeling
shake siding, black

pluses for windows,
a handful of pastels

for the plane tree,
pale and painterly.

Every year it sheds
its skin down to white bone.

I pick up a mottled cuff
and cup my wrist

to show my daughter
how to wear it.

Maggie Smith is the author of *The Well Speaks of Its Own Poison*, winner of the Dorset Prize; *Lamp of the Body*, winner of the Benjamin Saltman Award; and three chapbooks, including *Disasterology* (forthcoming). She has received fellowships from the Ohio Arts Council, the Sustainable Arts Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. In spring 2016 she will be a visiting assistant professor at The Ohio State University.