

## ALLISON ATWILL

*Coral Moon, 2012*  
Acrylic on birch panel with silver leaf, 48 x 36 in



COURTESY: THE ARTIST

## FREYA ROHN

### Cottonwood

Branches lie at the foot  
of my bed tonight:

the dry cracked leaves  
a rattle of gull eggs

the color of earth  
the color of backlit windows  
after a forest fire burn

and the smell in the dark  
is not of summer or  
the approach of fall

but of past springs,  
of river walks when  
I was more brave

pressing blackberries  
on your neck in blind  
sun, a shipwreck of sugar

and ink on your skin—  
the reminded surprise  
of our unstaid longing

and the sap from these branches—  
strong and clean and resined  
and fine—lies here after  
we have gone to bed

as if this gift  
from our son  
is calling back to where  
his own body began.

**Freya Rohn** is the deputy director of curatorial affairs and programs at the Anchorage Museum in Alaska. She has an MFA in creative writing from the University of Alaska, Anchorage, where she received the Jason Wenger Memorial Award for Poetry. Her poetry has appeared in *Cirque* (under the name Kirsten Anderson), *Bellingham Review*, and *Sugar House Review*; is forthcoming in *Colorado Review*; and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She lives in Anchorage, Alaska, with her husband and son. [www.freyarohn.com](http://www.freyarohn.com)