

ANA MARÍA SHUA

Memory of an Index Finger

—translated from the Spanish of
Ana María Shua by *Steven J. Stewart*

Some memories are clear, crisp,
with sharp edges.
Some memories are soft as a watch
painted by Dalí,
confused scattered melting
on the (gray) screen of the face of our memories.
Some words are disguised as images
that pretend to be memories.
The one, for example, of my father,
pointing out tiny planes in the sky
that I could never see.
I then remember just one finger,
my father's finger,
a raised cutout index finger
against a sky that's too blue.
Now the absence of that finger
is powerful,
it's much more violent
than the ephemeral absence of a plane
across a blue background.

Ana María Shua (1951–) has published over eighty books in numerous genres: novels, short stories, poetry, drama, children's fiction, books of humor and Jewish folklore, anthologies, film scripts, journalism, and essays. She has received numerous national and international awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, and is one of Argentina's premier living writers.

Steven J. Stewart has been awarded two Literature Fellowships for Translation Projects by the National Endowment for the Arts (2005 and 2015). He has published two books of the short fiction of Argentinian Ana María Shua: *Microfictions* (University of Nebraska Press, 2009) and *Without a Net* (Hanging Loose Press, 2012).

ROBERT BILENSKY

Flying and Going Home, 2017
Oil on Wood Panel, 24 x 36 in



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