

## HUNG LIU

*Fortune Raider*, 2012  
Oil on Canvas, 59.5 x 48 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

## MARY RUEFLE

### Crackerbell

I grew up

I became myself and  
was haunted by it

and I loved to wander, utterly alone

listening to the sound of tears  
striving to guess my own secret  
and racking my imagination for  
a dream

meanwhile,  
everybody else knew my story  
and there was not one of them  
who would give me so much as  
a bird dropping

so on I wandered  
with arms and nitric startled eyes,  
nitpicking my way through the world  
when the electrical current  
that runs in all directions  
deep beneath the earth  
shook me

and at once I felt  
there are so many years to fail  
that to fail them all, one by one,  
would give me a double life,  
and I took it.

Mary Ruefle's latest book is *Trances of the Blast* (Wave Books, 2013). Her book of essays, *Madness, Rack, and Honey* (Wave Books, 2012) was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. She lives in Vermont.