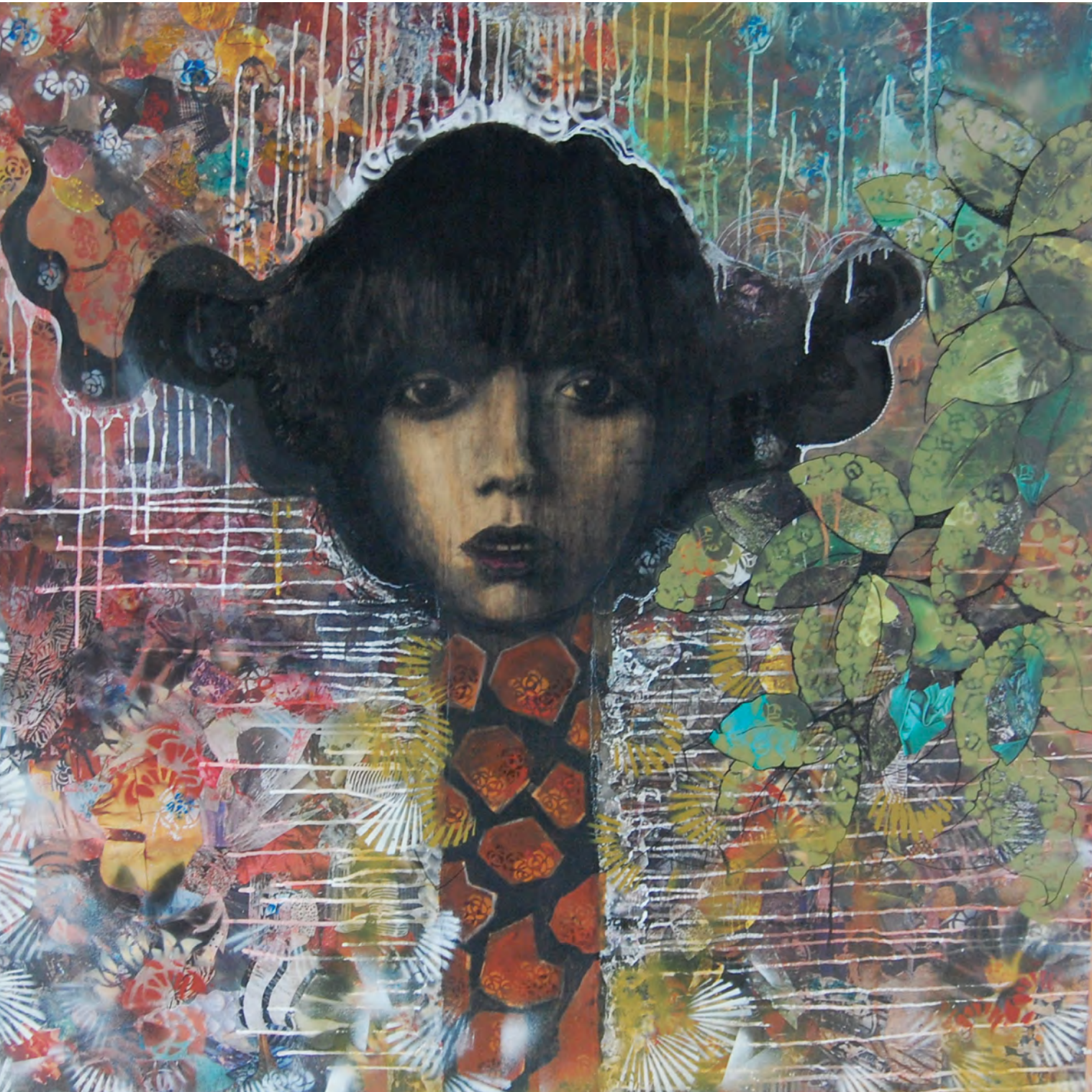


NICOLE BENNETT

Giraffe Lady: Staring at the Sun, 2010
acrylic, spray paint, and decoupage on wood,
48 x 48 in



courtesy: SCICA gallery

MARY MACKEY

Onça Pintada/ Painted Tiger

at night when we wake we see Solange standing beside us
and feel *seu hálito quente*/her hot breath
on our faces

trees and vines are tattooed on her body
when she moves they flow across her breasts and thighs
como o Rio Branco em inundação
like the Rio Solimões in flood

Solange who stalks us by day
and watches over us by night
Solange who is everything we have destroyed

*Castanha-de-cutia, castanha-do-pará,
angelim-vermelho*
the lungs of the world emptied
its rivers fouled with arsenic

Solange *a única que é tudo*
the painted tiger who pads behind us
on soft paws

Mary Mackey has published thirteen novels and six volumes of poetry, including *Sugar Zone*, winner of the 2012 PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Award for Literary Excellence. This poem comes from her new collection, *Travelers With No Ticket Home*, due out from Marsh Hawk Press in spring 2014. Mackey has said that the figure of Solange may be “a shaman, a priestess, a goddess, an ex-lover, a force of nature, or even the wilder side of Mary Mackey.” www.marymackey.com.