

URSULA O'FARRELL

In A Sea Of Change, 2012
oil on canvas, 48 x 60 in.



courtesy: Alex Bult Gallery

LINDA PASTAN

Course of Treatment

After forty visits, after forty
invisible rays transformed
your body into something
as incandescent as a flashbulb,
they release you into

the world, where it hardly rained
those forty days, those nights, where
your ark was an old SUV shuttling you
back and forth along meandering
highways, taking their daily toll.

Now you embrace the ordinary again—
this small snow shower on the windshield,
which seems in its brevity
to have special meaning—
a shower of angel feathers perhaps,

or the bottle of wine we will
uncork in celebration,
its brothers waiting in a basement
redolent of the earth
you've once again escaped.

Linda Pastan's thirteenth book of poems, *Traveling Light*, was published in 2011. She has been poet laureate of Maryland, and in 2003 she won the Ruth Lilly Prize for Lifetime Achievement from the Poetry Foundation. She published early work in *kayak*. New poems appeared recently in *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, *5 Points*, and *New Letters*.