

## JESSICA DUNNE

*Joe's Truck, Omaha, 1999*  
Oil on Linen, 76.5 x 60 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST, PHOTO CREDIT: M. LEE FATHEREE

## ERICA GOSS

# Encontrada

I have never learned to wander  
to trust in grass and stars and mouthfuls of air.

If I ramble without keys or shoes  
I might meet my ghosts, who always seem friendly

at first. No drifting allowed, no matter the delicious  
temptation of the vanishing point. I'd rather hit

a sign than turn an unnamed corner  
regardless of its lonesome beauty. And so I study

maps of the world, avoiding  
shady groves hung with moss,

or streets tense with empty cars  
or large bodies of water. When lost

they say, keep to one spot.  
Don't meander. That's how you found me

a map of the spirits stuffed in my back pocket.  
All I had to do was stay put.

**Erica Goss** is the poet laureate of Los Gatos, California, and the host of *Word to Word, A Show about Poetry* on public access TV. She is the author of *Wild Place* and *Vibrant Words: Ideas and Inspirations for Poets*. Her poems, reviews, and articles appear widely, both online and in print. She won the 2011 Many Mountains Moving Poetry Contest, and was twice nominated for the Pushcart Prize. She writes *The Third Form*, a column about video poetry, for Connotation Press. [www.ericagoss.com](http://www.ericagoss.com).