

## SARAH MCCOUBREY

*Large White Lake, 2012*  
oil on wood panel, 26 1/2 x 24 in.



COURTESY LOCKS GALLERY

## JUDY BRACKETT

### The Trees for the Forest

**Judy Brackett's** stories and poems have recently appeared or are forthcoming in *Miramar*, *Subtropics*, *Commonweal*, *Canary*, *West Marin Review*, the *Midwest Quarterly*, *Spillway*, *The Untidy Season: An Anthology of Nebraska Women Poets* (Backwaters Press), and elsewhere. She is a member of the Community of Writers at Squaw Valley and has taught creative writing and English literature and composition at Sierra College. A native of Nebraska, she has lived in California's northern Sierra Nevada foothills for many years.

dawn pinking  
the smoke-hazy sky  
watermark clouds to the south

The word is your Easter.

wildflowers painting the trailsides  
vermillion trumpets  
thimble-size magenta spikes  
flat-topped feather-leafed creamy yarrow  
lepidopterous parade

Hope doesn't float, it struggles to rise.

golden eagle high up in a Jeffrey studying  
the theory of fancy flight  
old snow in the Palisades' saddles

Skysticks & stones threaten fire, bone-dry desert mountains.

Mule's ears standing tall cradling  
citrine stars  
skipper wings resting  
on lupine  
high noon

You're only old twice, but twice is forever.

black bear in her rough brown coat galumphing  
through burnt trees & slash  
hot-eyes-roving hawk ripping  
the guts from a marmot  
long shadows, late afternoon

Love never sometimes always maybe dies down, dies.

Tahoe's blue water white at sand's edge  
striping its way to indigo  
all the way to Nevada

Have I time & words & world enough & who's beside me?

high-riding moon in slow-motion leap  
over Emigrant Peak  
cable car climbing to stars