

HOWARD IKEMOTO

Momentum, 2013
oil on canvas, 66 x 42 in



credit: R.Blitzer Gallery

JEN SIRAGANIAN

Post-Op

Light-burst to ivory,
swaddled in sheet
and bandage. Bright
inhale, I flicker awake.
Mirror of breath,
lips timber-dry,
nurse's white-daisy-
welcome-mat grin.
Yearning for juice,
I ask, it appears!
I praise my ribbons
of good fortune.

I expected to rise
with roaring and rifles,
my stomach gnarled,
but as the anesthesia
loosens, the half-lit
fuse of awareness
and the swarming chest moths
cool of their fury.
Inside a droning,
surprised by the absence
of bone-heat,
left hand sneaks
to left hip,
its new topsoil
of dressing
and tape.

If I could pour
myself back, dissolve
in the frost, delightful, viscous,
I would risk that winter again.

Jen Siraganian is a co-coordinator of the Lit Crawl, the final night of Litquake, San Francisco's literary festival. She earned an MFA from the University of Arkansas, and has been nominated for a Ruth Lilly Fellowship and a Pushcart Prize. Past recipient of a scholarship from the Squaw Valley Writers' Conferences, she has published in *Barrow Street*, *Frontiers*, *Spillway*, *Squaw Valley Review*, *Nothing But the Truth So Help Me God*, and *Not Somewhere Else But Here: A Contemporary Anthology of Women and Place*.