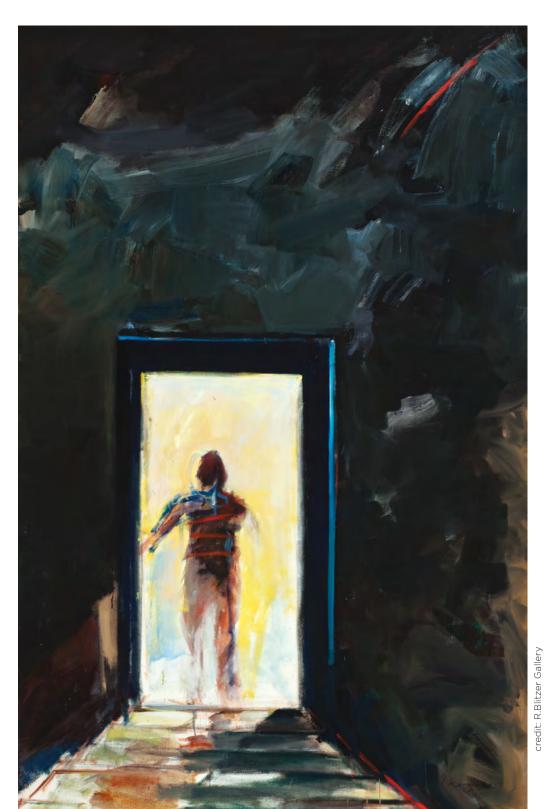
## **HOWARD IKEMOTO**

Momentum, 2013 oil on canvas , 66 x 42 in



## **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-daisywelcome-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.