

LINDA CHRISTENSEN

Receptive, 2019
Oil on canvas, 24 x 24 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

GAIL RUDD ENTREKIN

Evolution of Grief

I did not go to the field
to break or bury my precious things.
I am made of what I said that day,
the man I walked with on the square,
the dream I remembered and wrote.
The others crossed the street,
chose other doors, said things
I would never have said, became
famous or poor or went to Spain
and rode their bikes and played
poker. But I wore a purple sock,
made flippant remarks that I came
to regret, and changed. I changed
along a crooked path. I ate the coconut
soup and the tofu after all, I faced
into the terrible wind and was not blown
away, I was serious and said the thing
that made you stop and look again,
the thing that made you stay.

Gail Rudd Entekin is poetry editor of Hip Pocket Press and editor of the online environmental literary magazine *Canary*. Her poems were recently finalists for the Pablo Neruda Prize for Poetry from *Nimrod International Journal* and won the Women's National Book Association Award. Her five books of poetry include *The Art of Healing* (Poetic Matrix Press, 2016), *Rearrangement of the Invisible* (Poetic Matrix Press, 2012), and *Change (Will Do You Good)* (Poetic Matrix Press, 2005), which was nominated for a Northern California Book Award.