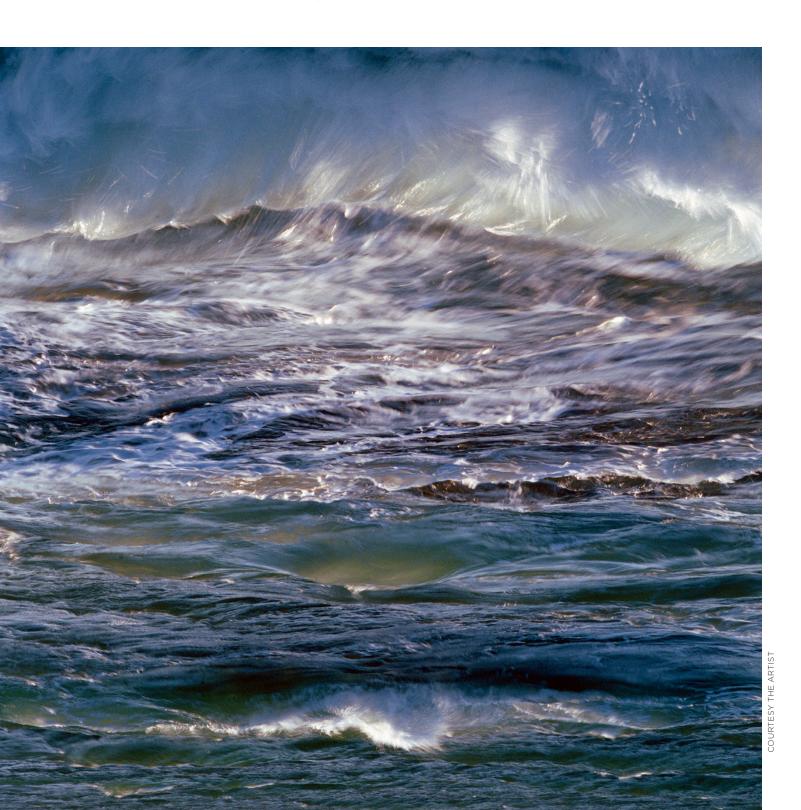
## **TABITHA SOREN**

Panic Beach (03589-9), 2010 Archival Print, 30 x 30 in



## **LAWRENCE FERLINGHETTI**

At Sea

(for Pablo Neruda)

In 1953 Lawrence Ferlinghetti cofounded City Lights, the first paperback bookstore in the United States, a Mecca for millions. His Coney Island of the Mind is one of the bestselling volumes of poetry by any living American poet. Born in Yonkers, New York, in 1919, Ferlinghetti has received the Robert Frost Memorial Medal and the first Literarian Award of the National Book Foundation.

"At Sea" was first published by City Lights Books, November 2017. Used with permission from the poet.

The sea through the trees

distant

shining

The dark foreground

a stone wall with lichen

An old salt

sits staring out

at the sea

A wind sways the palms

infrequently

Another day prepares

for heat and silence

A small plane

buzzing like a fly

disturbs the sky

The air eats it

Far out on the slumbering sea

a trawler creeps along

The wind from the south

blows the bait in the fish's mouth

The yawning sea

swallows the trawler

The lichen lives on

in its volcanic stone

taciturn

eternal

awaiting its turn

in the turn of the sun

Never will I return here

never again

breathe this wind

on this far run

in the reaches of morning

where the sea whispers

patience and salt

The sun

scorches the sky

and drops like a burnt-out match

into night