## JOHN WHALEN Inside a Tree

Sunlight leans you toward a pretty pine with translucent needles, a flurry of wind. Yet she never intends an ocean voyage. Owns property in the middle of summer.

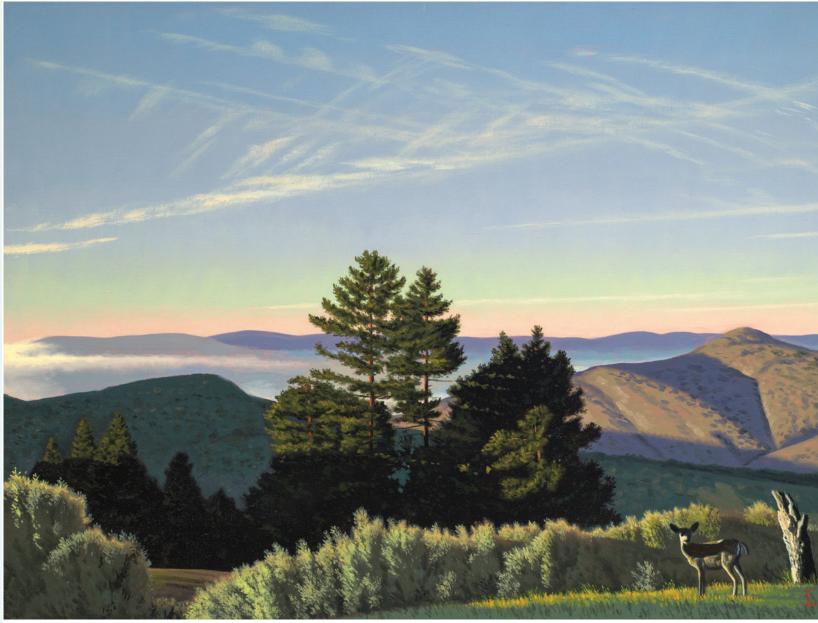
If you live inside a tree, then sunlight's the thing. A history in one place, though there are other places. Inside your tree—underside of the moon chewed off.

Inside your tree—a sideways-walking coyote. If you live inside a tree, Coyote dreams. If you live inside a tree all winter in Washington State and go home to Australia in May,

it's winter again. You never have summer all the years you are a tree.

## **DAVID LIGARE**

Landscape with Deer, 2019 Oil on linen, 18 x 24 in.



COURTESY WINFIELD GALLERY

**John Whalen** is the author of *Caliban*, published by Lost Horse Press in 2002. *In Honor of the Spigot* was published in 2010 and won the Gribble Press Chapbook Award. Whalen's newest book, *Above the Pear Trees*, was the winner of the 2014 Floating Bridge Chapbook Award. His manuscript "The Johnson Poems Heart Attack Geological Survey" was a finalist for the 2020 Catamaran Poetry Prize.