



COURTESY THE ARTIST

MELISSA GWYN

Respiration, 2006

Oil on Panel, 24 x 12 in

HAN-JAE LEE

Cobweb

A spider, all alone, is building a cobweb in the corner of the hamlet.
His house waves in the breeze, shaded by a drift of clouds.

Though it is only sounds and sunshine that he hauls up,
he mends the net strand by strand, as if according to musical notation.

Which line has to be installed first or last? How long?
He is a skilled carpenter, humming to himself as he builds.

“What stays where the winds have passed?”

“How long will I have to wait?”

Though it is only a shadow in the moonlight and on the morning dew,
he is never giving up on his house.

He continues to inhabit the garden
where the sparrows twitter and the children chatter.

The spider is conceiving a dream of a loving nest
within the cosmos that hugs the sky, villages, and byways.

Han-Jae (H.J.) Lee studied poetry at Chung-Ang University and Korea University, and in the United States at the Almaden Community Center (San Jose). His first book, *A High-Rise Apartment*, was published in Korea in 2008. Co-publisher of three poetry anthologies, his poems have appeared in several Korean literary magazines. H.J. has been writing poetry in English since 2004; and in 2013 his collection, *The Golden Gate Bridge and Other Natural Wonders* was published in English. He lives in both San Jose and Seoul.