

SALGADO MARANHÃO

Seal 7

When, in the end, will we read  
the seal of this today  
in the delirium of the piercing  
that tears the tongue?

How many carats of  
the aboriginal to swell our pride?

The blood that stains the afternoon  
on the wall of centuries  
sings of empire and the shack.

It’s all infected,  
every piece and parcel: life  
restocking  
in the coyote’s den.

Give me at least that kingdom  
of failing love, oh morning,  
my concubine, give me  
that cross of flowers.

A dry river flows through  
the labyrinth, a  
cyber symbol flows  
in the drum that echoes  
the border between peoples.

Yet, in the end, invincible  
time is our game,  
and each of us only dies  
his proper death.

—Translated from the Portuguese by Alexis Levitin

**Salgado Maranhão** has published ten volumes of poetry and has won all the major poetry prizes available in Brazil. He has also collaborated with some of Brazil’s major composers and musicians. Accompanied by his translator, Alexis Levitin, he has toured extensively in the United States with his two books *Blood of the Sun* (Milkweed Editions, 2012) and *Tiger Fur* (White Pines Press, 2015).

**Alexis Levitin**’s translations have appeared in well over 200 magazines, including *Grand Street*, *Kenyon Review*, *Partisan Review*, *APR*, *New Letters*, and *Prairie Schooner*. His forty books of translations include Clarice Lispector’s *Soul-storm* and Eugenio de Andrade’s *Forbidden Words*, both from New Directions.

BILL SCOTT

*Turning Time to Flowers, 2014*  
Oil on canvas, 45 x 57 in

