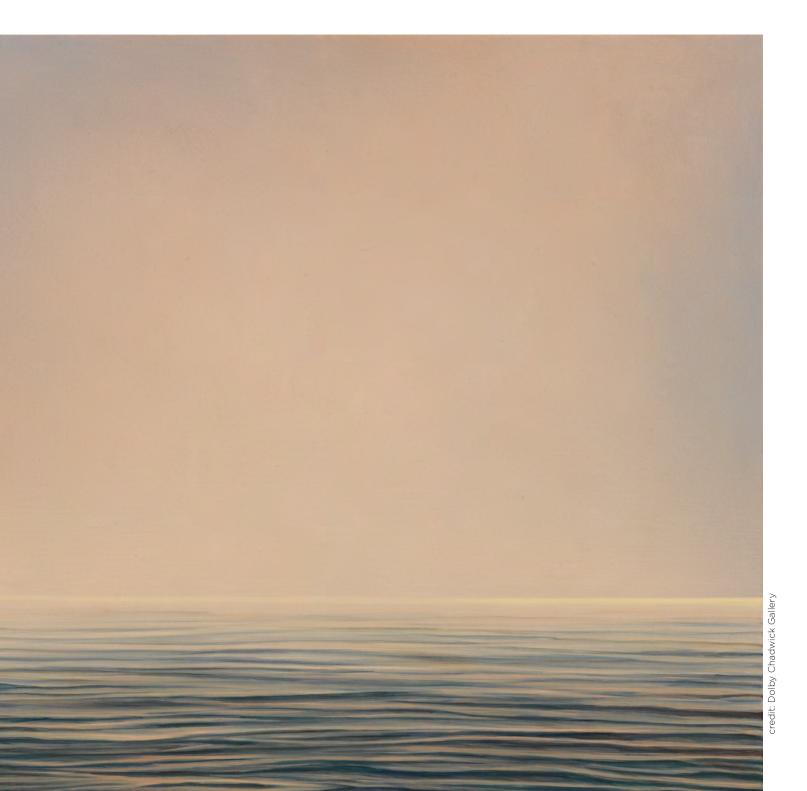
## **LOUISE LEBOURGEOIS**

First Light, 2011 oil on panel, 12 x 12 in



## **PAUL MULDOON**

## Catamaran

Between Dominica and Martinique we go in search of sperm whales, listening for their tink-tink on a hydrophone hooked up to a mini-speaker. A prisoner's tap on a heating pipe... The one faint hope by which he's driven.

My son is reading *Lord of the Flies*. I can think of that book only as the dog-eared manuscript Charles Monteith would pick out of the slush pile at Faber's. I'm pretty sure dear Charles recognized a version of himself in Piggy. The same prep school anguish. Same avuncularity. Same avoirdupois.

Now I imagine lying by my dead wife just as a sperm whale lies by its dead mate as if it might truly be said to mourn.

A corruption of the Tamil term for "two logs lashed together with rope or the like," the word we use is catamaran.

**Paul Muldoon** is an Irish poet now based in New York. One Thousand Things Worth Knowing, his twelfth collection of poetry, will be published in the fall of 2014. He serves as poetry editor of *The New Yorker*.