

## PETER LOFTUS

*Sierra Buttes with Residual Snow, 2006*  
Oil on canvas, 52 x 80 in



COURTESY: R. BLITZER GALLERY

## ADELA NAJARRO

### Incantation Three

Heat waves bind desert green on the valley floor,  
bluestem, sagebrush, saltbush.

We are the ones who see.  
We are the ones who know.

Light waves undulate at precise peaks and valleys.  
We name these burnt sienna, azure blue, clay white, alabaster.

A name is and is not  
what we see and what we know.

On the valley floor, she rises  
casts shadows that undulate with the passing sun.

She is mountain. She is scar. She is bird or star.  
She sits on a fence.

A bird in shade under a tree.  
A bird splashes wet.  
A hummingbird over sugary sweet water.

In the beginning was the word,  
and we began to name plant, animal, color, star.  
But that was not enough.

A word is and is not  
a nest, a seed, a root that digs deep.

She sits in the form of herself  
and teeters precariously on the edge of the world.

As a bird on a fence.  
As an orange desert flower.  
As a giant gaseous star.

Words lift in wind,  
and like leaves on a tree,  
she catches afternoon light.

**Adela Najarro** is the author of two poetry collections, *Split Geography* and *Twice Told Over*. She currently teaches creative writing, literature, and composition at Cabrillo College.