

HUNG LIU

Fortune Raider, 2012
Oil on Canvas, 59.5 x 48 in



COURTESY THE ARTIST

MARY RUEFLE

Crackerbell

I grew up

I became myself and
was haunted by it

and I loved to wander, utterly alone

listening to the sound of tears
striving to guess my own secret
and racking my imagination for
a dream

meanwhile,
everybody else knew my story
and there was not one of them
who would give me so much as
a bird dropping

so on I wandered
with arms and nitric startled eyes,
nitpicking my way through the world
when the electrical current
that runs in all directions
deep beneath the earth
shook me

and at once I felt
there are so many years to fail
that to fail them all, one by one,
would give me a double life,
and I took it.

Mary Ruefle's latest book is *Trances of the Blast* (Wave Books, 2013). Her book of essays, *Madness, Rack, and Honey* (Wave Books, 2012) was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. She lives in Vermont.