

## JOÃO DE BRITO

*Coastal View*, 2009  
Oil on Canvas, 20 x 24 in.



courtesy: Monique Arnon Fine Art Gallery, SF

## ASTRID CABRAL

### Sea, Tireless Sea

Sea, tireless sea  
    murmuring eternity  
        of syllables of salt and sun  
Sea rocking  
    watery multitudes  
        unfeathered schools in flight  
masses of marine mammals  
    octopuses squid conch cuttlefish  
forests of coral and fronds of algae  
    branching and dancing  
        in sea caves and in coves  
sea spreading over  
    endless level sands  
        or laceworked strips and spits of land  
sea beating at the hulk  
        of towering cliffs  
    and bulking slopes of savage coasts  
sea tireless engine  
    churning its spume  
        its rapid watery dunes  
its roiling crashing  
    slashing crests           bubble after bubble  
    wave after wave  
sea colossal organ generating  
    sounds syllables sussurations ululations  
sea pasture of insoluble  
    mysteries in blue  
        translucent or nocturnal  
maritime cemetery  
    tattered sails battered caravels  
        bones stones   flotsam jetsam  
        rusting wreckage  
sea of unspoken speech  
    silence of its signs  
        sea of utter music  
sea saliva sweat the weeping  
    of an ancient hidden god.

*(translated from the Portuguese by Alexis Levitin)*

**Astrid Cabral** has had a long career in Brazil as a poet, teacher, and diplomat. In the United States, her work has appeared in numerous magazines, including *Confrontation*, *Cincinnati Review*, *The Dirty Goat*, *International Poetry Review*, *Metamorphoses*, *Poetry East*, *Two Lines*, and *Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas*. This poem is taken from her book of memory and loss, *Gazing Through Water*.

**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 thirty-two books of translations include Clarice Lispector's *Soulstorm* and Eugenio de Andrade's *Forbidden Words*, both from New Directions.