

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.