

MEETING / LISTENING / GALLIVANTING

Artwork by Joan Wortis and Donald Cole with texts by John Levy



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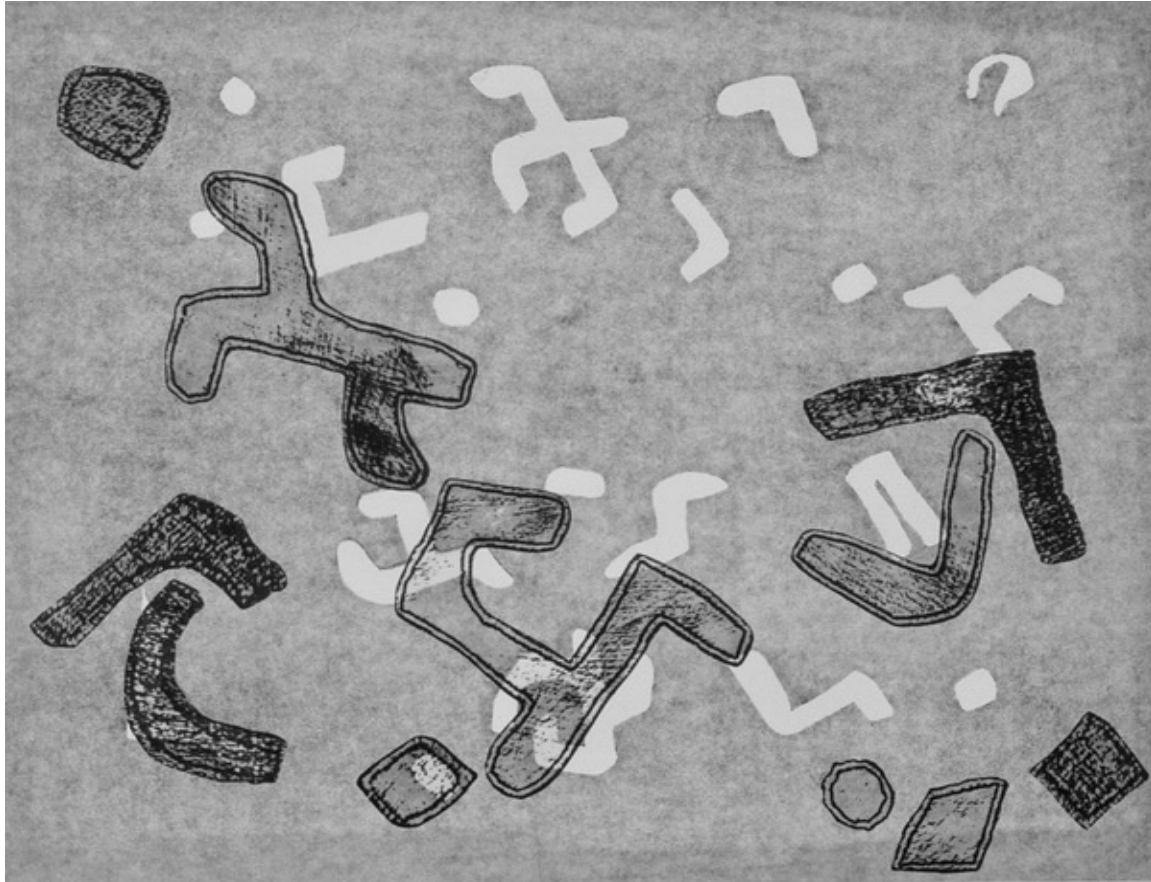
Front cover image: “Gallivanting” by Joan Wortis

Back cover image: “Pentimenti” by Donald Cole

Design by Sarah Gzinski // sgzinski.com

To Ed Cain, poet and painter, who brought the three of us together

Five by Joan Wortis



Floating / Flying

to find

to find the time floating

to find
the time
flying

to find the time inside the floating

to
do no chasing

to hover

to
slow
time's
avalanche

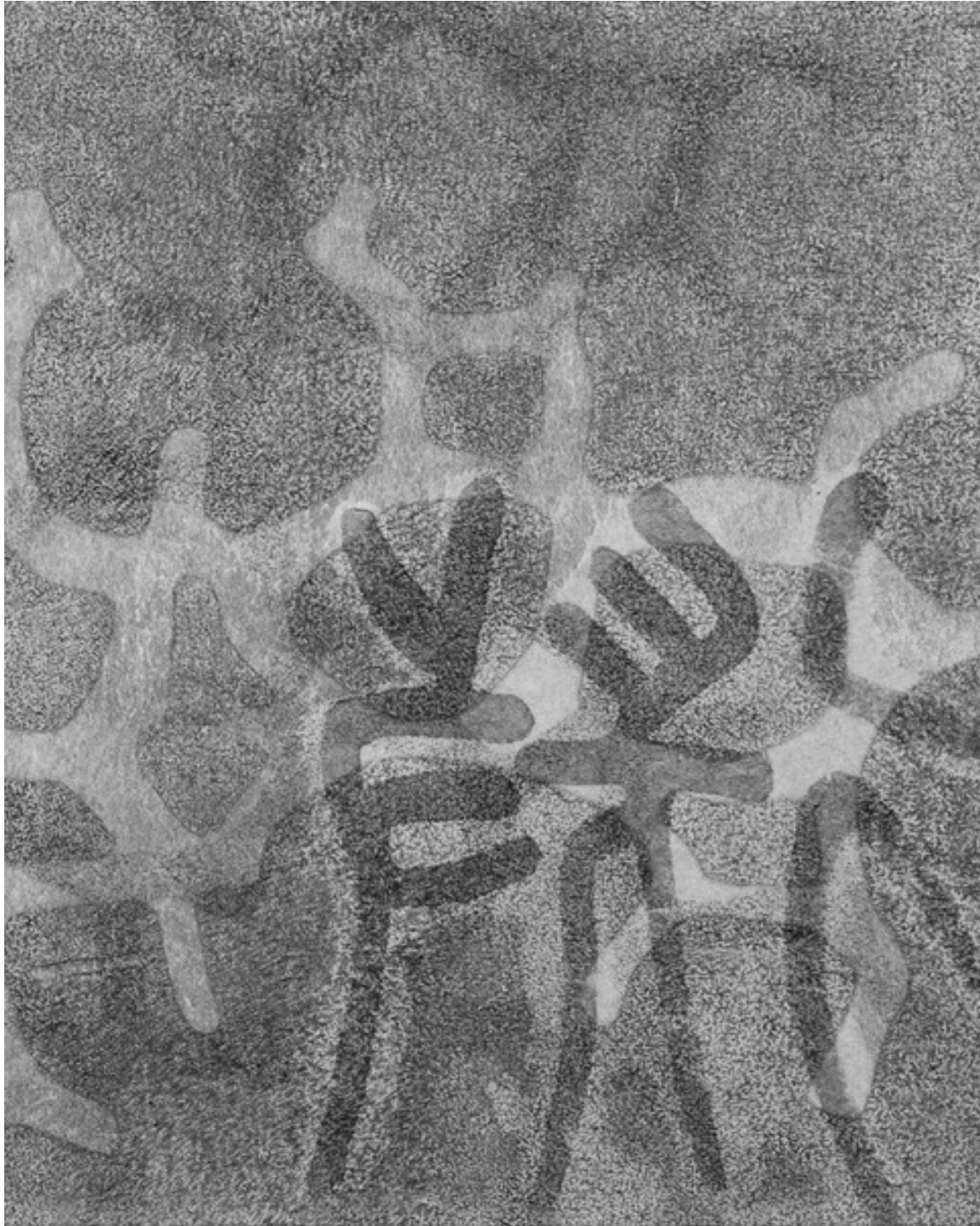
to find the time floating



Listening in the Wind

Listening

the sound of the words, blown
away, blown close and blown away,
blown into versions of away, narrowing
and tapering the listening to sounds, how they
move, obtain, prolong, glaze, hem, burnish, leave us



Softly in the Fog

the fog

the fog takes

time

turns

time softly

all

roles

slip

tilt

reach back

reach

a without we want



Gallivanting

Gallivanting

a step

out of place

with a place

where movement floats

into life

stretching out and in with urge

& grace,

burgeoning



Declamation

The serious

The serious
asserts

what's lovely about

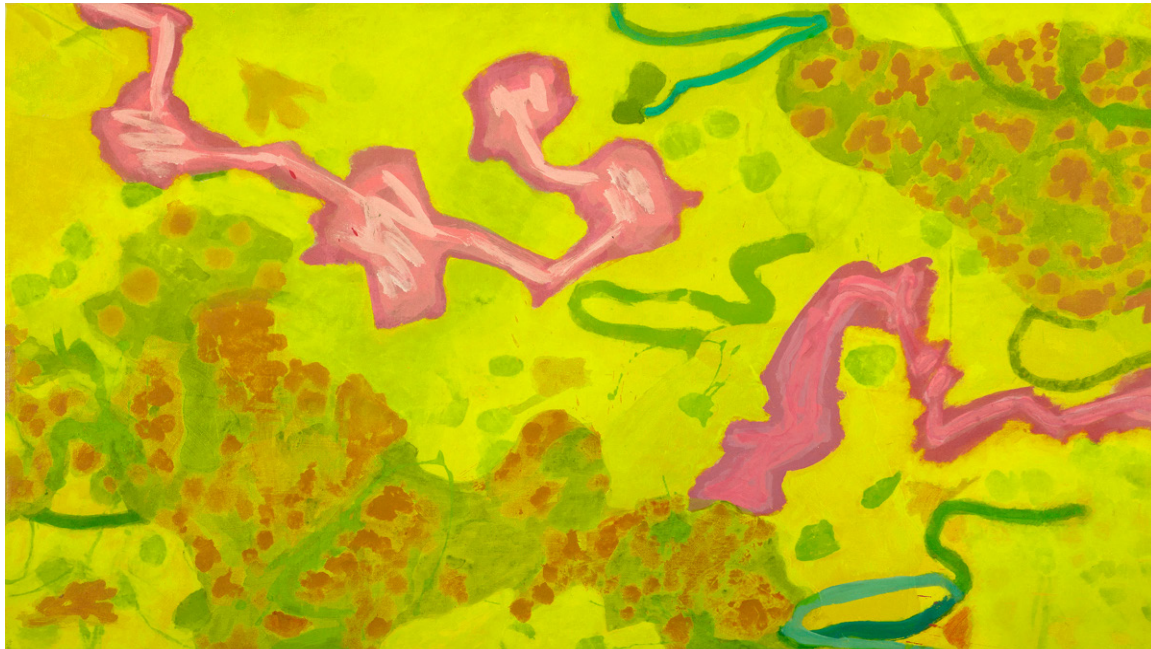
force

while delicate

patterns

surround
what thrusts

Five by Donald Cole



Pentimenti

Pentimenti

the scrawl and pool of colors, unwheeled,
unwieldy, unwilled, reread, what tributaries nudge
shores, where does the past retouch, remain

visible, in some ways intertwine

this free-for-all where



Meeting

Meeting

A bird and another bird

near the first bird I saw, both have
birds' eye views

of what I take in too, as I face them

and they don't move for
this

moment. What is time to them

when they aren't
flying

and when they are? All these patterns

we exist with, and in, breathing

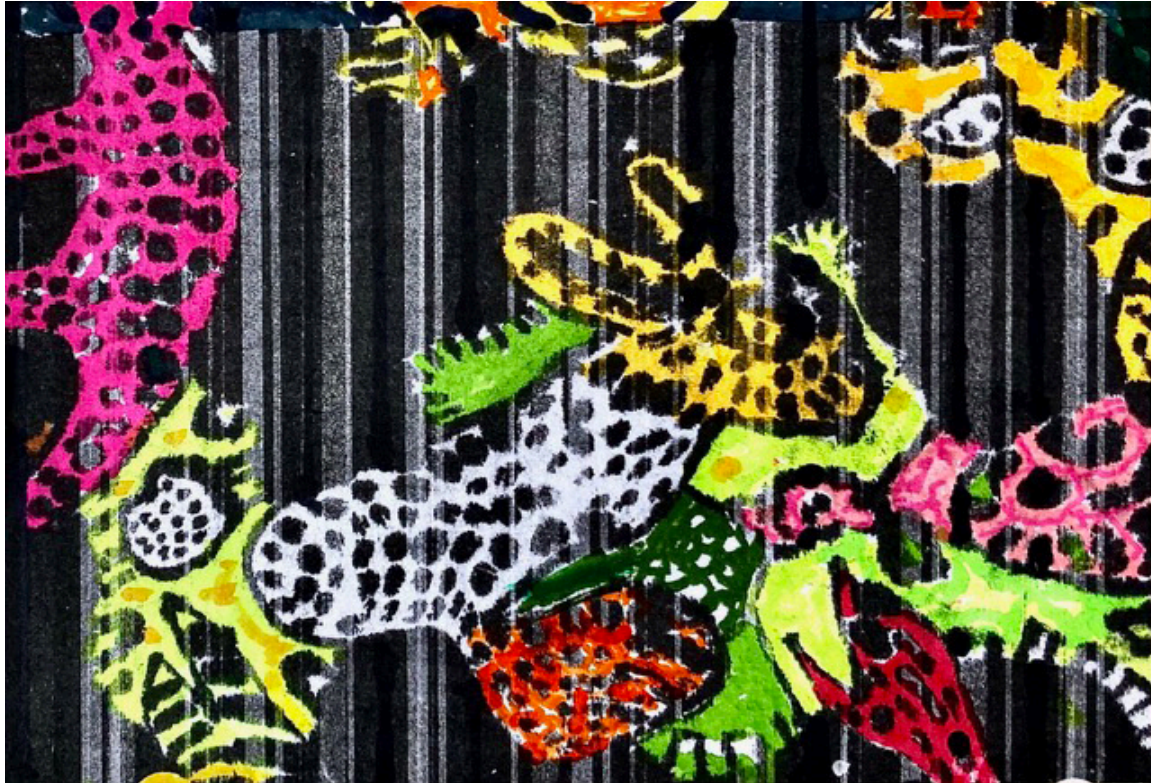
for now, for now, for
now. Do these

birds

pause
in wonder, free of fear

for their future? I'm not talking

to them, they're not singing
to me, yet this



Mythical

One myth is

that the lifetimes of the animals we see when we see the animals are the same as our lifetimes while being different from our lifetimes. No one tells this myth though. "It goes without saying," that's the cliché. Animals we've named, the names making the animals. The names making the animals seem known, seem familiar, seem with us even if they'd eat us if they could. The animals with their eyes that are different from ours and we often don't think of how they see, what they see, how the world looks from inside their lives. How an edge we may see may not be anything like the edge they see if they do see an edge, likewise the night.



Short Stories

Short Stories

(1)

A goblin reminds us we like to focus when designs push out towards us from black emptiness. The stories are separate. Shapes from dreams, a briefing on what exists between dirge and exaltation. The goblin is never far from stories, instructs and misleads, welcomes the quasi-grid of instinct and chaos, the repertory of the unearthed and the reach of deep space, the journeys and departures—and those departures that withdraw even further with fears, secrets, and the solitary ecstasies.

(2)

stories scatter, and gather,
 mother and deepen, remain
 ajar, tumble
 into place, greet
 us, fill
 our space, offer
 plots, promised
 harmonies, echoes, bends, blanks
 within, angles
 and centers, a different count-
 lessness, full beyond margins



Hotter

Hotter

The sky, the air, color, we make up
their biographies. The figure, man or woman,

holding the boy or girl,
was born and able to grow up

and have what it takes to be tender
to a child. The child

is calm, held, knowing how it feels
to be held. No matter what

is out there, the child knows
what it is to be held.

Every mouth is open.
Every silence is open.

Two animals face each other,
and something floats in the sky

with eyes that look out at us, a mouth
full of gold or the voice or everything else

unknown.

Joan Wortis

Joan Wortis has had a long career in the arts, starting as a dancer and choreographer, then a hand weaver, textile designer and finally an artist working primarily with monotype and collage. Joan’s sources of inspiration come from her experience in dance and her deep appreciation and long interest in visual symbols from other cultures. Her textiles and mixed media works have been exhibited locally, nationally and internationally.

Donald Cole

As an abstract painter and a person living in nature with challenged vision but a good memory for a varied past, I look closely at what I can see and remember.

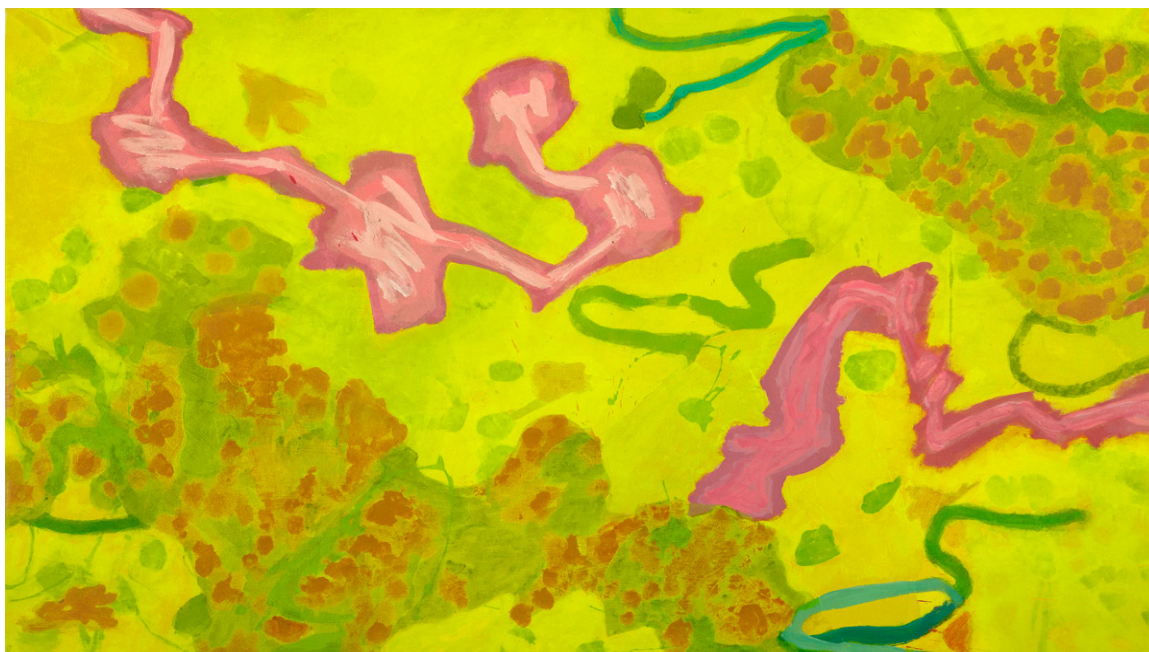
First Exhibit	State University of New York, Albany, NY 1977
Most recent	ArtX Contemporary, Seattle WA 2021

Joan Wortis and Don Cole share a life and a studio on Vashon Island, WA.

Please address inquiries about artwork by Joan Wortis and Donald Cole to info@ArtXContemporary.com.

John Levy

John Levy’s most recent book of poetry is *54 poems: selected & new* (Shearsman Books, 2023). He also writes fiction. He is married to the painter Leslie Buchanan.



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