

Glenna Holloway
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AVONNA LEE'S MOUNTAIN

She's made it hers,
climbing it when the light is right,
struggling up its steepness with easel, oils,
canvas, investing long hours in its moods.

She lives in shades of sky and aspen leaves,
breathes conifer shapes and shadows, ~~gathers~~ captures ever changing texture
all into mitered wood corners, capturing the scent
of seasons, winged silhouettes above variable shine - the scent of
and sheen, unknown rustlings out of sight. rustlings, seasons!

Decades ago she began with a palette of sunset
and moonrise, a blend of ocher earth, an eagle feathers, + sculpted stone.
Now ancient music threads through pigments,
mastering margins, dimensions, even the fourth.

Her palimpsest is bear prints, ~~gray~~ trails, ^{sch}
mauve dust, discarded antlers, roots, old ashes.
Her foreground remembers songs men long ago forgot, tribal chants,
the pulsing undertones of hidden hues,
the arcane movements of metamorphic rock.

Her patient brushes repair eroded slopes
where colonnades of pine and spruce
colonized the eastside gulch but failed to hold
against vindictive rains and wind-wash. Exulting
in each small survival, each new stroke of green,
her composition grows with chiaroscuro changes,
commanding the cold strokes of dawn, the knife
of noon, the stiff bristles of winter.

No one knows her age but the mountain--
keeper of all good and sacred secrets.
many of which she has already revealed

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