

MARY ALICE DIXON

Time Passes

the woman

floating

under the rocks

upturned

her sleeping memory

painting

revelation

like a boat

in smoke

driven

by the dark

she painted

violets

the stillness

called

consoling ghosts

ABOUT THE POEM

“Time Passes” was created from *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf (1927). About the poem and the process of composing it, Mary Alice Dixon writes:

This piece grows out of my synesthesia and took its title from the second section of *To the Lighthouse*. That section opens with the line, “Well, we must wait for the future to show.” The novel urged me to see paintings as memories and landscapes as animate creatures. When a dead friend’s bottle of lavender nail polish accidentally spilled on my hands, I felt the violets in the *Lighthouse* speaking in the voice of a lavender ghost. The words come primarily from two pages in the third and final section of the novel, on the passage of time, stitched with a few articles of my own.

