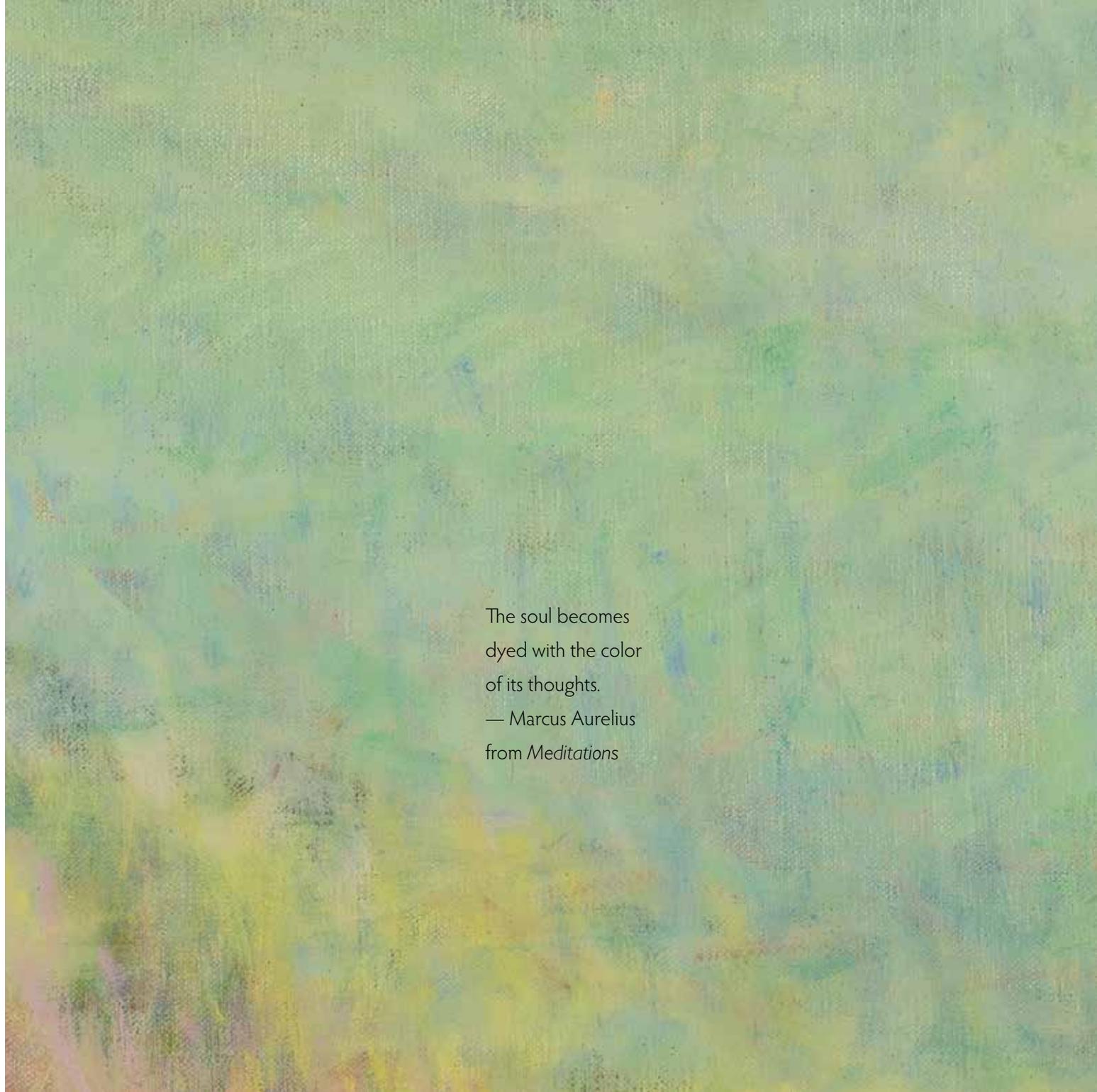


As It Were

Kathryn Milillo oil paintings

Cover, back cover (details)
Make Yourself a Light, oil on linen 30x48 inches



The soul becomes
dyed with the color
of its thoughts.
— Marcus Aurelius
from *Meditations*

“Make of yourself a light”
said the Buddha,
before he died.
I think of this every morning
as the east begins
to tear off its many clouds
of darkness, to send up the first
signal—a white fan
streaked with pink and violet,
even green.

— Mary Oliver
from “The Buddha’s Last Instruction”



Make Yourself a Light oil on linen 30x48 inches

Let me keep company always with those who say
"Look!" and laugh in astonishment,
and bow their heads.

— Mary Oliver
from "Mysteries, Yes"



Companionship oil on linen 36x36 inches

Be still, my soul, and steadfast.

Earth and heaven both are still watching
though time is draining from the clock
and your walk, that was confident and quick,
has become slow.

So be slow if you must, but let
the heart still play its true part.

Love still as once you loved deeply
and without patience. Let God and the world
know you are grateful.

That the gift has been given.

— Mary Oliver
from “The Gift”



You've Got a Friend oil on linen 28x36 inches

To live in this world

you must be able
to do three things:
to love what is mortal;
to hold it

against your bones knowing
your own life depends on it;
and, when the time comes to let it
go,
to let it go.

— Mary Oliver
from "In Blackwater Woods"



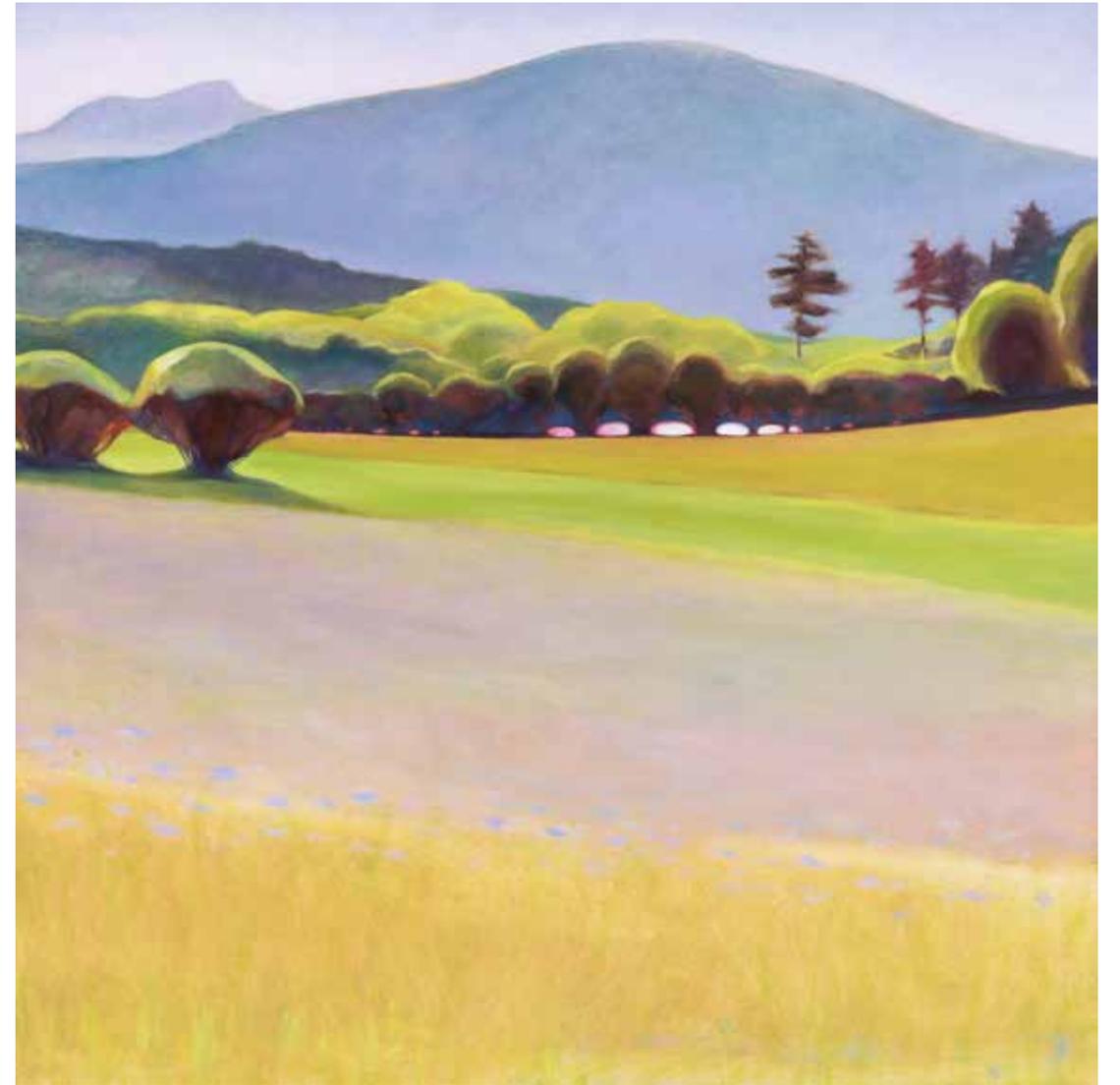
Heart to Heart oil on linen 24x24 inches

do you think there is anywhere, in any language,
a word billowing enough
for the pleasure

that fills you,
as the sun
reaches out,
as it warms you

as you stand there,
empty-handed--

— Mary Oliver
from “The Sun”



Along the Way oil on linen 36x36 inches

I have refused to live
locked in the orderly house of
reasons and proofs;
The world I live in and believe in
is wider than that. And anyway,
what's wrong with Maybe?

You wouldn't believe what once or
twice I have seen. I'll just
tell you this:
only if there are angels in your head will you
ever, possibly, see one.

—Mary Oliver
"The World I Live In"



Angels in the Architecture oil on linen 36x36 inches

When it is over,
I want to say:
all my life I was a bride
married to amazement.
I was the bridegroom, taking
the world in my arms.

–Mary Oliver
from “When Death Comes”

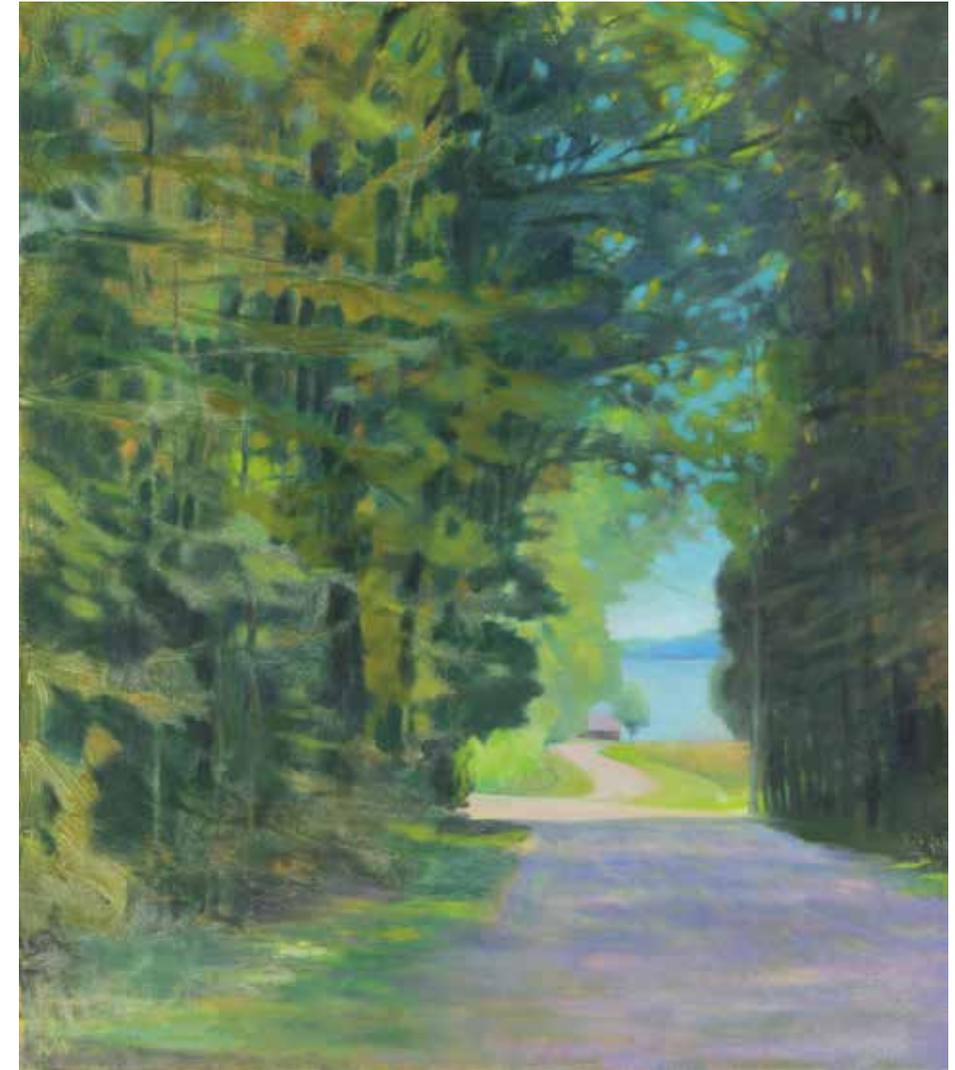


Lost Time oil on linen 24x24 inches

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."

— Mary Oliver
from "When I Am Among the Trees"



Stay Awhile oil on linen 26x30 inches

Instructions for living a life:

Pay attention.

Be astonished.

Tell about it.

— Mary Oliver
from "Sometimes"



Higher Love oil on linen 28x36 inches

Next time what I'd do is look at
the earth before saying anything. I'd stop
just before going into a house
and be an emperor for a minute
and listen better to the wind
or to the air being still.

— Mary Oliver
from "Next Time"



Nick of Time II oil on linen 25x40 inches

I would like to write a poem about the world that has in it
nothing fancy.
But it seems impossible.
Whatever the subject, the morning sun
glimmers it.

— Mary Oliver
from "This World"



Glimmer oil on linen 12x16 inches

I go down to the shore in the morning
and depending on the hour the waves
are rolling in or moving out,
and I say, oh, I am miserable,
what shall—
what should I do? And the sea says
in its lovely voice:
Excuse me, I have work to do.

— Mary Oliver
"I Go Down to the Shore"



The Shore oil on linen 36x36 inches



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As It Were
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Middlebury, Vermont
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Don Ross Photography



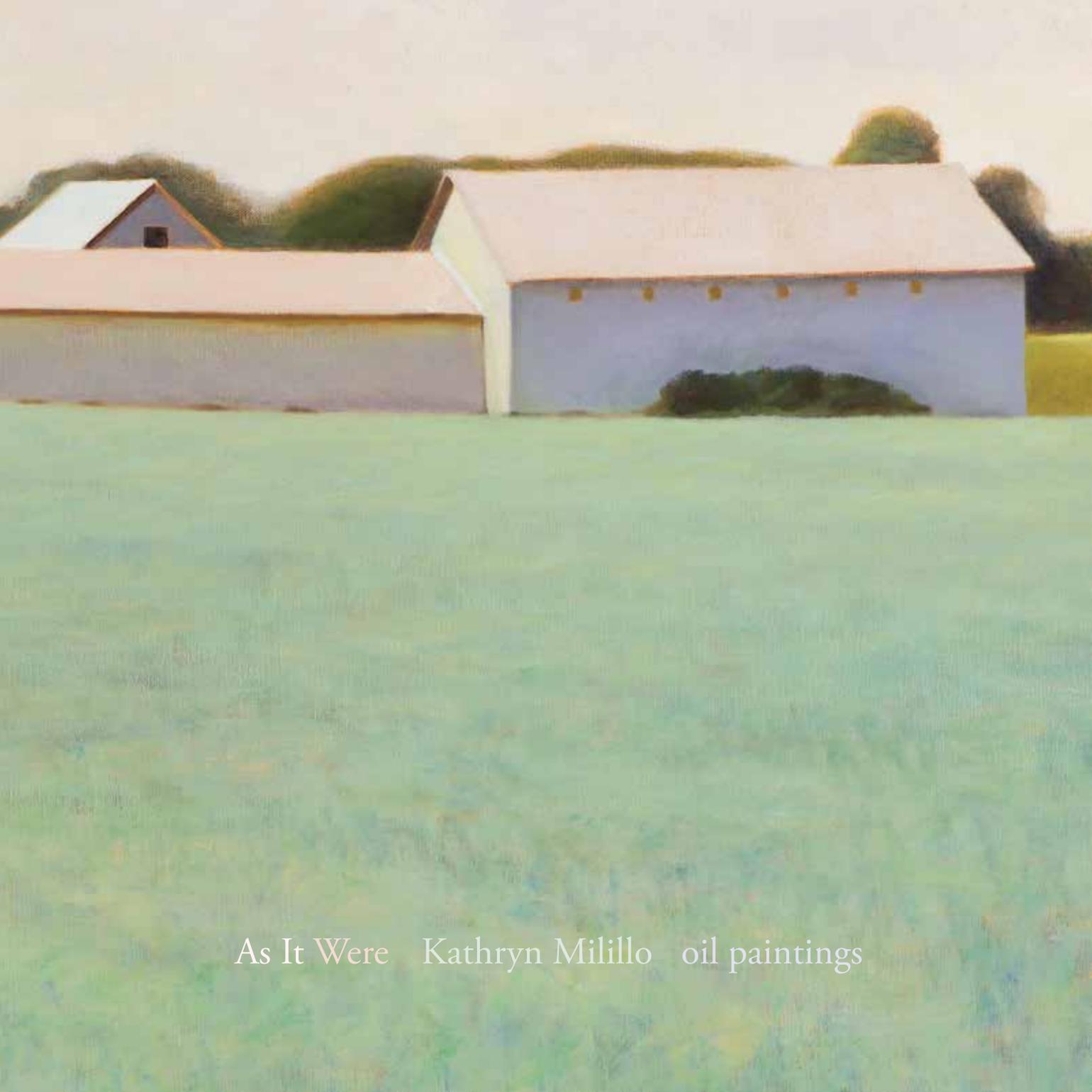
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Vermont's unpretentious farmscapes and nearby lakes are a source of continual inspiration. The rough edges of the mountains have been polished by the earth's inexorable evolution. The soft contours of the land and the spare, time-worn New England architecture speak to me poignantly of the inevitable impermanence we all face.

I am influenced in my painting choices by a background in English literature and graphic design. Words like "grace," "shelter" and "attachment" are veins of gold to be mined. I appreciate the simple and the spare in both poetry and art. My aim is to create a visual poem.

—Kathryn Milillo

dedicated to
Mary Oliver
1935-2019



As It Were Kathryn Milillo oil paintings