In the wide kingdom is a hidden clearing
where the water rushes through, where all
through the night tiny hands gather only the proper foliage
– fragile, amber, identical – put together tenderly, puzzle-
perfect, in the deep dark where faith always must reside.

It's a difficult palette, the arm of a tree, slim bridge flexed
over the risky river. All every night they toil, little laborers
of love and supplication, unseen, servants to the
coming eye, the luminous Sun.

Gold leaf: literal!

And yet by nighttime, after every gleaming dawn and day, as
every night settles once again, despite every effort, through
its golden, gleaming lovely center develops the wending
disturbance, the savage jagged crack, criminal and unavoid-
able, grinning heresy to split and spoil – to remind the
toilers their work is never done.

Antonya Nelson
Art of Our Time
Selections from the Ulrich Museum of Art
Wichita State University

Patricia McDonnell and Emily Stamey

With contributions by
Toby Kamps, Laura Moriarty,
Antonya Nelson, Timothy R. Rodgers,
and Robert Silberman

Photo-essay by Larry Schwarm

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About the Contributors

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