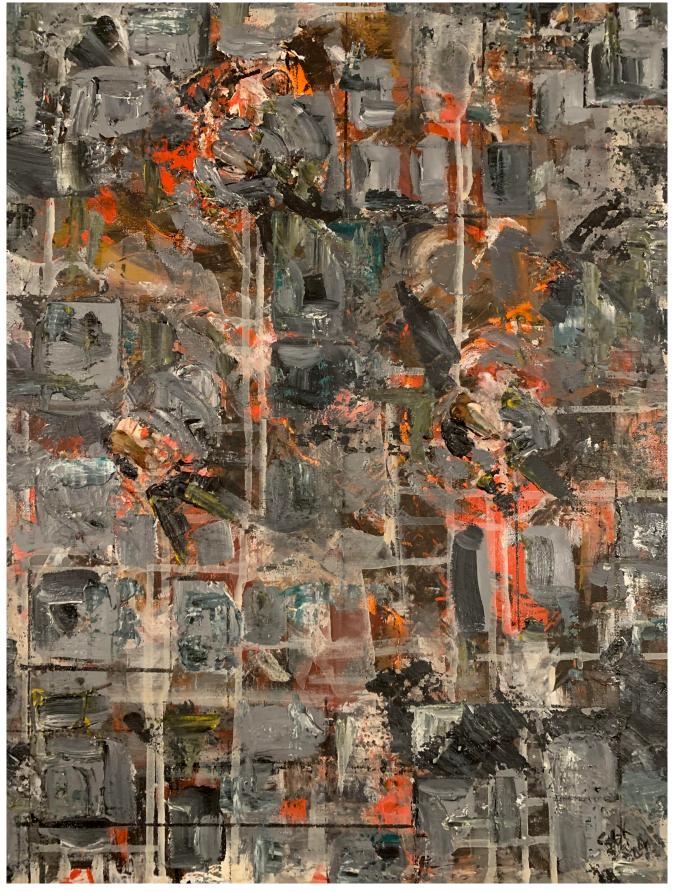
New Poetry by Sylvia Baedorf Kassis: "Detritus"



## **Detritus**

```
You can tell me
that what happens
    upon the soil
          beneath our feet
does not matter
that the violence -
    gunpowder
    bullets
    landmines
    blood spilled
    and rot of bones and flesh
does not affect the terroir
that the terror
over centuries
on land -
    disputed
    and stolen
    fought over
    conquered
    and lost
is not ad infinitum
buried in this graveyard
             called home
You cannot tell me
that what happens
    upon the soil
          beneath our feet
does not matter
that the battles -
    sweeping or contained
    as enemy or ally
are not eternally captured in the earth
    dust inhaled and ingested
          but also embedded
```