

“Hugging”

By Sherry Sheehan

Unaffected by pandemic restrictions,
almond trees bloom,

hug buildings, hug
each other, and hug people,

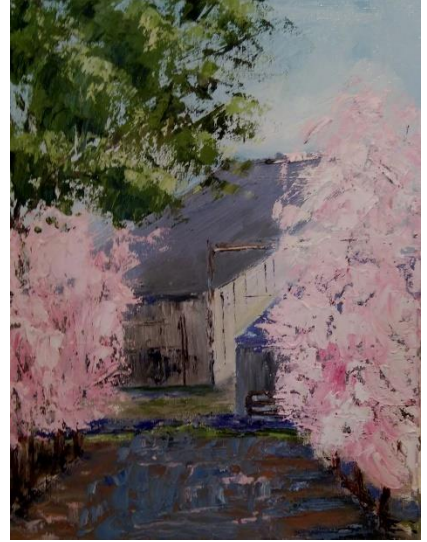
letting us experience
intimacy vicariously

when an artist
transports their pink-glow

comfort to those of us
unhugged for months,

now reveling in color
and feeling brush strokes—

sumptuous, silky, and soft
as the hair on a grandchild’s head.



“Woodland Almond Blossoms”
by Susan Street