

CONTRIBUTORS

JOSIAH LUIS ALDERETE is a full-blooded Spanglish (Pocho) speaking poet from the San Francisco Bay Area who learned to write poetry in the kitchen of his mama's Mexican restaurant. He was a founding member of San Francisco's outspoken word troupe The Molotov Mouths, whose collected writings were published by Manic D Press in 2003. His stories have appeared on KALW's "Crosscurrents," and his show "The Spanglish Power Hour" aired on KPFA. He curates the Latinx reading series SPEAKING AXOLOTL in Oakland every third Thursday of the month.

ALICIA GASPAR DE ALBA, a native of the El Paso/Juárez border, is a professor of Chicana/o Studies, English, and Gender Studies at UCLA, and Chair of the LGBTQ Studies Program. Alicia has published twelve books, among them, novels, short story collections, poetry, and academic books. Her most recent publication is *The Curse of the Gypsy* (Arte Publico Press, 2018).

RICARDO MARIO AMÉSQUITA is the author of *Eating Stones* (Sangamon Press) and *Rezo Resbaloso* (Alexander Street Press). He has published in the *MacGuffin*, *Somos En Escrito*, *Discourse: Journal for Theoretical Studies in Media and Culture*, *The Spoon River Quarterly*, *Rockford Review*, *Alchemist Review*, *Poets Against the War*, *Kalligraphia*, *Many Smokes*, and *CARACOL*.

IRIS DE ANDA is a Guanaca Tapatia poet. A womyn of Mexican and Salvadoran descent, she believes in the power of spoken word, poetry, storytelling, and dreams. Her work has appeared in *Coiled Serpent Anthology*, *Poetry of Resistance: Voices for Social Justice*, *OCCUPY SF* poems from the movement, and many other prominent literary magazines. She is the author of *CODESWITCH: Fires From Mi Corazon*.

YVETTE BENAVIDES is a professor of English and creative writing at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas. She is a book critic for the *San Antonio Express News* and a commentator for Texas Public Radio. Her work has been published in the *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Huizache*, *Aster[ix] Journal*, *The Americas Review*, *Mothering*, *Latina*, the *Langdon Review of the Arts in Texas*, and *The Texas Observer*, among other publications.

DAVID BOWLES is a Mexican-American author and assistant professor at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Recipient of awards from the American Library Association, Texas Institute



of Letters, and Texas Associated Press, he has written a dozen books, most recently *Feathered Serpent*, *Dark Heart of Sky: Myths of Mexico*. His work has appeared in *Journal of Children's Literature*, *Rattle*, *Asymptote*, *Translation Review*, *Metamorphoses*, *Huizache*, *BorderSenses*, and *Southwestern American Literature*.

BRENDA CÁRDENAS has authored *Bread of the Earth/The Last Colors* with Roberto Harrison, *Boomerang*, and *From the Tongue of Brick and Stone*. She co-edited *Resist Much/Obey Little: Inaugural Poems to the Resistance* and *Between the Heart and the Land: Latina Poets in the Midwest*. Cárdenas also served as Milwaukee's 2010–2012 Poet Laureate.

ANA CASTILLO is coeditor of the fall 2018 issue of *Fifth Wednesday Journal*. Her bio appears on page 5.

MARCELO CASTILLO, a recipient of a PEN writing award, is a self-described "graffiti poet." He has been a contributor to *La Tolteca Zine* and is interested in exploring his "Xicanismo" and writing projects in both fiction and nonfiction.

LUPÉ CHAIREZ is a first generation Mexican-American student. She was raised in both her textual Durango, Mexico, and her deeply red Nebraska. She credits the inherently political nature of her work to her multicultural upbringing. She currently resides in Chicago where she continues to be fascinated by how well movement takes to bodies, words, and paint.

VANESSA ESPINOZA is the daughter of *campesinos*. She was born in Zacatecas, Mexico, and raised in Iowa. Vanessa is the recipient of the Herbert Hoover Uncommon Student Award and the Iowa Latino Hall of Fame's Latinx Youth Leader Award. Espinoza is currently obtaining her master's degree at Iowa State University.

ANEL I. FLORES was awarded Women's Advocate of the Year from UTSA and Nebrija Creadores Award from the Universidad de Alcalá de Henares. She is coeditor of forthcoming *Jota Anthology* with Korima Press and author of Lambda award-nominated book *Empanada: A Lesbiana Story en Probaditas*. She is a member of the Macondo Writer's Workshop. Currently, she is working on her novel *Solitaria and The Rain Curtain*, and her *Graphic Autohistoria*. www.aneliflores.com @aneliflores.

LISHA ADELA GARCÍA has México, the United States, and the land in between in her work. She has an MFA in Writing from Vermont College and currently resides in Texas. Lisha has a chapbook entitled *This Stone Will Speak* (Pudding House Press). Her book, *Blood Rivers*



(Blue Light Press of San Francisco), was a finalist for the Andrés Montoya Prize at the University of Notre Dame. She was a finalist for the Bodine-Brodinsky Prize from the Connecticut Poetry Society.

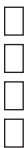
IVANA GATICA is a Chicago-based writer currently studying at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and earning her degree in writing and visual communication. Ivana's fiction focuses on her childhood memories of Mexico and her transition to living in the United States. Her work has earned an honorable mention on *Glimmer Train* and has been published in an online issue of *Fifth Wednesday Journal, FWJ Plus*.

NANCY AIDÉ GONZÁLEZ is a Chicana poet, educator, and activist. Her work has appeared in *Huizache: The Magazine of Latino Literature, La Tolteca*, and other literary journals. Her work is featured in the *Poetry of Resistance: Voices for Social Justice, Sacramento Voices Anthology*, and *Lowriting: Shots, Rides, and Stories from the Chicano Soul*.

RAY GONZALEZ is the author of fifteen books of poetry including the recent *Beautiful Wall* (BOA Editions, 2016 winner Minnesota Book Award). He received a 2017 Witter Bynner Fellowship in Poetry from The Library of Congress and teaches in the MFA Creative Writing Program at The University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Born in Saraguro, Loja-Ecuador, **SISA PACARI BACACELA GUALÁN** is a native Kichwa speaker. Focusing in language, bicultural education, and literature, she attended the University of Azuay and COLAM-Amawtay WASI (House of Wisdom, an accredited indigenous university). She also studied law and advocacy at the National University of Loja. In addition to her poems in Kichwa, she writes on native cultures. The translations of the poems in this issue to Spanish are hers, and the translations to English from both Kichwa and Spanish are by Ana Castillo.

CLAUDIA D. HERNÁNDEZ was born and raised in Guatemala. She's a photographer, poet, translator, and a bilingual educator residing in Los Angeles. Her most recent poems have been published in *Texas Poetry Calendar, The Acentos Review, Mom Egg Review, Berkeley Poetry Review*, and *Southern Humanities Review*, among other publications. She is the recipient of the 2018 Louise Meriwether First Book Prize. She is the editor of *Women, Mujeres, Ixoq: Revolutionary Visions* (Conocimientos Press, 2017) and the founder of the ongoing project: *Today's Revolutionary Women of Color*. Her photographs have been published in *The Literary Journal of the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library, Nineteen-Sixty-Nine: A Journal of Ethnic Studies, La Tolteca, The Latino Literary Online Magazine*, and elsewhere.



IXTACCIHUATL is a Mexican poet raised in Chicago. Her poetry echoes her Mexican upbringing interwoven with the many threads of her Chicago-based home life. She credits her parents (both musicians) for encouraging her artistic pursuits. Her work has appeared in *Between the Heart & the Land*, an anthology of Latina poets in the Midwest, and the following journals: *Another Chicago Magazine*, *Lucky Star*, *The Sierra Nevada College Review*, *Howling Dog*, *Hammers*, and *Zuzu's Petals Quarterly*. She received her MA from The University of Illinois at Chicago.

IXTA JULIETA holds an MA degree from the Program for Writers at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She teaches English composition and advises college students in writing. Her work has appeared in *The Feminist Review*, *Little Red Leaves*, and *Prairie Light Review*. A long-time Chicago resident, she currently resides in Naperville, Illinois.

DANIEL LIBMAN's bio appears on page 106.

KEN LIGHT has worked as a documentary photographer, focusing on social issues facing America for over 50 years. His work has been published in nine books, including, *What's Going On? 1969-1974*, *To The Promised Land*, *With These Hands*, and *Valley of Shadows and Dreams*. He is also the author of the text *Witness in Our Time: Lives of Working Documentary Photographers*, now in its second edition. He is the recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts Photographers Fellowships and the Dorothea Lange Fellowship. He is the Reva and David Logan Professor of Photojournalism at the University of California Berkeley. He was the first photographer to become a Laventhol Visiting Professor at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. Learn more about him at: www.kenlight.com

DAVID TOMAS MARTINEZ is the author of two collections of poetry, *Hustle* and *Post Traumatic Hood Disorder*, both from Sarabande Books. Martinez is a Pushcart winner, CantoMundo fellow, a Breadloaf Stanley P. Young Fellow, NEA poetry fellow, and NEA Big Read. Martinez lives in Brooklyn.

NANCY MERCADO is the recipient of the American Book Award for Lifetime Achievement presented by the Before Columbus Foundation. She was recently named one of two hundred living individuals who best embody the work and spirit of Frederick Douglass by the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives and the Antiracist Research and Policy Center at American University.



AMELIA MARÍA DE LA LUZ MONTES is an Associate Professor of American Literature, Ethnic Studies, and Creative Writing at The University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is a contributing writer for the largest national/international Chicanx and US Latinx blog site, *La Bloga*. Montes recently returned from a Fulbright Scholar year at The University of Novi Sad, Serbia. She is currently writing a memoir about her year in the former Yugoslavia.

NANCY MOREJÓN graduated with honors at the University of Havana. Her poetry has been translated into English, German, French, Portuguese, Gallego, Russian, Macedonian, and other languages. She has produced a number of journalistic, critical, and dramatic works. One of the most notable is her book-length treatment of poet Nicolás Guillén. In 2001 she won Cuba's National Prize for Literature, awarded for the first time to a black woman. Her work explores a range of themes: She often expresses an integrationist stance, in which Spanish and African cultures fuse to make a new, Cuban identity. She also voices the situation of women within her society, expressing concern for women's experience and for racial equality within the Cuban revolution; often black women are protagonists in her poems, most notably in the widely anthologized *Mujer Negra* (Black Woman).

CARLOS MORTON's professional playwriting credits include the *San Francisco Mime Troupe*, the *New York Shakespeare Festival*, the *Denver Center Theatre*, *La Compañía Nacional de México*, the *Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre*, and the *Arizona Theatre Company*. He has written for Columbia Pictures Television and Fox Television and is the author of *The Many Deaths of Danny Rosales and Other Plays* (1983), *Johnny Tenorio and Other Plays* (1992), *The Fickle Finger of Lady Death* (1996), *Rancho Hollywood y otras obras del teatro chicano* (1999), *Dreaming on a Sunday in the Alameda* (2004), and *Children of the Sun: Scenes for Latino Youth* (2008). He is currently Professor of Theater at University of California Santa Barbara.

JENI DE LA O is an Afro-Cuban poet and storyteller in Detroit. Her work has appeared in *Obsidian*, *York Literary Review*, *Acentos Review*, *Gigantic Sequins*, *Rigorous Magazine*, and others. She is a poetry editor for *Rockvale Review* and organizes Poems in the Park, an acoustic reading series based in Detroit.

MELINDA PALACIO is the author of the novel, *Ocotillo Dreams*, about immigration in Arizona in 1997. Her poetry collections



include *Folsom Lockdown*, *How Fire Is a Story*, *Waiting*, and *Bird Forgiveness*. She is currently working on a second novel, new poetry, and her bimonthly online column for La Bloga.

JUAN R. PALOMO was born in North Dakota and grew up in Texas and various Midwestern states. With degrees from Texas State and American University, he wrote for *The Houston Post*, *Austin American-Statesman*, and *USA TODAY*. He is a 2018 Houston Poetry Fest juried poet, and his work has appeared in *Acentos Review*, *Account Magazine*, *New Mexican Review*, *Bayou Review*, and *Hinchas de Poesía*.

EMMA PÉREZ is a research social scientist and professor at the University of Arizona. She has published a history monograph, feminist and LGBTQ essays, and three novels: *Gulf Dreams*, the award-winning *Forgetting the Alamo, Or, Blood Memory*, and *Electra's Complex*.

SUSAN AZAR PORTERFIELD's bio appears on page 20.

OCTAVIO QUINTANILLA is the author of the poetry collection, *If I Go Missing* (Slough Press, 2014) and the 2018–2020 Poet Laureate of San Antonio, Texas. His visual poems appear in *Gold Wake Live*, *Newfound*, *Chachalaca Review*, and *Twisted Vine Literary Arts Journal*. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of North Texas and is the regional editor for *Texas Books in Review*. He teaches Literature and Creative Writing at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas.

JAMES R. RETANA is a second generation Mexican-American. He has a BA degree in sociology from CSULA. His pieces and a fiction story have been published in the *L.A. Times*. Currently he is seeking representation for two thriller novels. The heart of his stories relates to growing up in East Los Angeles.

NATALIA REYES is a Paul & Daisy Soros Fellow pursuing an MFA at the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Latin American Literature Today*, Iowa Public Radio, and the *Rivard Report*. She is a member of the Macondo Writers Workshop and holds a BA degree in rhetoric from UC Berkeley. This is her first publication.

MONICA RICO is a second generation Mexican-American who grew up in Saginaw, Michigan, alongside General Motors and the legend of Theodore Roethke. She is an MFA candidate at the University of Michigan's Helen Zell Writers' Program. Follow her at www.slowdownandeat.com.



ALBERTO ÁLVARO RÍOS, Arizona's inaugural poet laureate and a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, is the author of eleven books and chapbooks of poetry, including *The Theater of Night* — winner of the 2007 PEN/Beyond Margins Award — three collections of short stories, and a memoir about growing up on the border, *Capirotada*. His book *The Smallest Muscle in the Human Body* was a finalist for the National Book Award. Ríos is the recipient of numerous accolades, and his work is included in over three hundred national and international literary anthologies. He is also the host of the PBS program *Books & Co*. His work is regularly taught and translated, and has been adapted to dance and both classical and popular music. Ríos is a University Professor of Letters, Regents' Professor, and the Katharine C. Turner Chair in English at Arizona State University. In 2017, he was named director of the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. His most recent book is *A Small Story About the Sky*.

ANNETTE M. RODRÍGUEZ is a New Mexican writer whose autoethnographic and creative writing have resulted in nominations to the National Pushcart Prize and the National Emerging Writer Award. She has also received New Mexico's Hispanic Writer Award. Rodríguez has taught at Brown University, the Institute of American Indian Arts, and University of New Mexico.

DAVID DORADO ROMO's bio appears on page 100.

MIA SASAKI is passionate about education for refugees and migrants. She has her MS degree in International Education Development from University of Pennsylvania. A California native, Mia currently works overseas at Asian University for Women, a World Bank and UN initiative for higher education. Mia lives in hope, building toward a world where people everywhere can pursue their dreams and live in peace.

PABLO PIÑERO STILLMANN was a fiction fellow at Mexico's National Fund for Culture and Arts (FONCA) and Foundation for Mexican Literature (f,l,m). His work has appeared in *Ninth Letter*, *Electric Literature's Recommended Reading*, *The Normal School*, *Washington Square Review*, and other journals. His novel, *Temblador*, was published by Tierra Adentro.

CARMEN TAFOLLA's bio appears on page 11.



MICHAEL TORRES was born and brought up in Pomona, California, where he spent his adolescence as a graffiti artist. His poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *Ploughshares*, *Southern Indiana Review*, and *Water-Stone Review*, among others. Currently he teaches creative writing in Mankato and through the Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop.

NITZA TUFIÑO born in Mexico and raised in Puerto Rico, is a multi-faceted visual artist, muralist, and master printmaker. She received her BFA degree from the Academia San Carlos of the Universidad Autonoma de Mejico in 1969. Tufiño is a founder of El Museo del Barrio and Taller Boricua. She was the first Latina artist to receive two art commissions for murals at the NYC Metropolitan Transit Authority subway stations. Her murals are located in institutions throughout NYC. She has been a recipient of many awards including the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts. She is a resident of South Orange, NJ. Learn more about her at www.nitzatufino.com/about-2/

A Williams College graduate, **VICKIE VÉRTIZ** is a writer from Bell Gardens, California. Her work is featured in the *New York Times Magazine* and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, among many publications. Her poetry collection, *Palm Frond with Its Throat Cut*, recently won the PEN America poetry prize in the fall of 2018. The poem "Dictation" was first published in *Nevertheless, She Persisted* (Barbara Jane Reyes, editor, Moria Poetry, Locofo imprint, 2017).

URSULA VILLARREAL-MOURA was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. Her stories, essays, and reviews have appeared in *Catapult*, *Tin House online*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Bennington Review*, *Washington Square*, and elsewhere. More about her can be found at www.ursulavillarrealmoura.com.

