

# The Halo-Halo Review

Critical reviews, Introductions, and other engagements with the English-language works of Filipino authors in all genres

Thursday, February 4, 2016

## AFTER PROJECTS THE RESOUND by KIMBERLY ALIDIO

MARTHE REED Engages

*After projects the resound* by Kimberly Alidio  
(Black Radish Books, 2016)

### BOOK LINK

#### "My language bitten out of me"

When Hoa Nguyen suggested I consider publishing the work of Kimberly Alidio, I was excited, as perhaps any new discovery excites: I had not yet encountered Kimberly's work. Once I entered the writing, however, here was an entirely different excitement. Her attention to forms and methods, their manifold possibilities, the insistent pulse of language's rhythms and alliterative capacities, the heat of her voice moving through history, emotion, the unseen and ignored, her love of the unloved—these drew me in. I could not stop reading, I wanted to follow these lines, this voice, wherever it took me.

Unflinching in her attention to how the paradigms of late-capitalism/colonialism deceive and betray, Alidio puts her reader square in the midst of the dilemma, the slippages between intention and action: "Does public vulnerability count as a brand?" How does one speak into this abyss?" Affirming the pressures to produce or perform, how these distort—"Some days we should read nothing. / Some days just one sentence."—Alidio attunes her reader to how the outsider invisibility increases in the midst of cultural and existential crisis: "The chronic indebted finish no programs possess no degrees," "The exhausted object have no body of work": "All the Pinays are straight and all the queers are Pinay some of us" "hold our femme gaze straight into the cosmos / behold a supernova of fat negation." Writing through/around/in the-midst-of erasure, Alidio's voice, insistently present, queer, Filipina, attends to the edges of the world, pulling her readers with her.

Blessed be

our ugly grief  
our helpless beauty  
this very moment of utterance incarnate in an absent brown body  
joining us  
alive painfully so  
strand us alone together

Where love and self-love most forcefully resist cultural-political erasure, the poems become incantatory, invocations against overwhelming loss, the language alive in its vivid particularity and nuance. In "Our lady of the banana ketchup", Alidio anticly composes a list marrying Philippine history to the ingredients of banana ketchup, a haphazard collision of war/colonial occupation/international capital/free trade and the memory, or taste, of home, homeland. Into those tangling intersections, she induces joy and grief, making English dance to her tune, her rhythms, wordplay, and irony a wonder and delight.

a guava jelly a food scientist  
a Maria Y. Orosa a world war # 2  
a gut sucking a powdered soybean  
a concentration camp a claypot oven  
a lime-ash soap a rice-bran cookie  
a cassava flour a green banana flour  
a heart twice hit by shrapnel

### Halo-Halo: Mixed-Genre Filipino Dessert of Reviews & Other Critical Engagements



#### Editor

- [Eileen R. Tabios](#)
- [ABOUT The Halo-Halo Review](#)

#### The Halo-Halo Reviews' MANGOZINE!

- [The Mangozine!](#)
- [Available Review Copies](#)

#### Blog Archive

- ▶ [2023](#) (26)
- ▶ [2022](#) (31)
- ▶ [2021](#) (42)
- ▶ [2020](#) (47)
- ▶ [2019](#) (26)
- ▶ [2018](#) (35)
- ▶ [2017](#) (46)
- ▼ [2016](#) (61)
  - ▶ [August](#) (15)
  - ▶ [July](#) (16)
  - ▼ [February](#) (30)
    - [THE HALO-HALO REVIEW'S MANGOZINE, Issue 2](#)
    - [EDITOR'S NOTE -- Issue 2](#)
    - [ROLLING THE R's, PRIME TIME APPARITIONS, THE EVOLU...](#)
    - ["THE BOATMAN'S BOOK SPINE POETRY" by AILEEN IBARDA...](#)
    - [AFTER PROJECTS THE RESOUND by KIMBERLY ALIDIO](#)
    - [ANGEL DE LA LUNA AND THE 5TH GLORIOUS MYSTERY by M...](#)
    - [COURT OF THE DRAGON by PAOLO JAVIER](#)
    - [INVENT\[ST\]ORY by EILEEN R. TABIOS](#)

a sodium benzoate  
 a heroine of soyalac  
 a sauce for the succulent belly  
 a saba a banana a yellow # 6  
 a red # 40 a sugar a vinegar  
 a UFC a jufran a Mother's Best  
 a torta a hipster a hotdog spaghetti  
 a hater a sweet tomato

Against "The disorder on the part of those the historical record only suspiciously considers human" Kimberly Alidio draws the intimate losses that hold her—"I am dissolved, not dismembered and so of course I / re-entered", grief made benediction: "Strung up crumpled together a sea of sound." Black Radish Books is very pleased and excited to be publishing Alidio's first full length collection *After projects the resound* in August 2016.

\*\*\*\*\*

Marthe Reed is the author of five books: *Nights Reading* (Lavender Ink 2014), *Pleth*, a collaboration with j hastain (Unlikely Books 2013), *(em)bodied bliss* (Moria Books 2013), *Gaze* (Black Radish Books 2010) and *Tender Box, A Wunderkammer* (Lavender Ink 2007). She has published chapbooks as part of the Dusie Kollektiv, as well as with above/ground press and Shirt Pocket Press. Her collaborative chapbook *thrown*, text by j hastain with Reed's collages, won the 2013 Smoking Glue Gun contest and will appear in 2016. She is co-publisher and managing editor for Black Radish Books and publisher of Nous-zöt Press chapbooks.

Posted by EILEEN at [10:30 PM](#)

No comments:

Post a Comment



Enter Comment

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)

HOLLYWOOD STARLET by IVY ALVAREZ  
 THREE BOOKS by ALBERT E. ALEJO  
 BRIDGEABLE SHORES by LUIS CABALQUINTO  
 THE BEAUTY OF GHOSTS by LUIS H. FRANCIA  
 HER WILD AMERICAN SELF by M. EVELINA GALANG  
 REPRODUCTIONS OF THE EMPTY FLAGPOLE by EILEEN R. T...  
 NAMES ABOVE HOUSES by OLIVER DE LA PAZ  
 BISTRO FILIPINO BOOK edited by YOLANDA PEREZ JOHNS...  
 DISTURBANCE by IVY ALVAREZ  
 TATTERED BOAT by LUIS H. FRANCIA  
 ROLLING THE Rs and LECHE, both by R. ZAMORA LINMARK  
 FOOTNOTES TO ALGEBRA by EILEEN R. TABIOS  
 POST-BOOK: PAOLO JAVIER  
 POST-BOOK: KRISTINA ONG MUSLIM  
 READERS SHOW SOME LOVE TO A FILIPINO AUTHOR (HHR#2)  
 MAGDALENA by Cecilia Brainard  
 Introducing RETURNING A BORROWED TONGUE edited by ...  
 Introducing LITTLE ANODYNES by Jon Pineda  
 Introducing EYE OF THE FISH by LUIS H. FRANCIA  
 Introducing A LA CARTE FOOD & FICTION edited by CE...  
 Introducing WALANG HIYA: LITERATURE TAKINGS RISKS ...  
 Introducing INVENT(ST)ORY: SELECTED CATALOG POEMS ...

► [2015 \(48\)](#)