

QUEER/TRANS/ASIAN FOLIO

- POETRY -

TWO POEMS

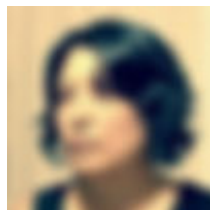
by Kimberly Alidio

WHERE IS MY EMOTION IN THIS LANDSCAPE

Where is my emotion in this landscape
What in this landscape will get my heart straight
What in this landscape remembers her mercy
Where is her mercy in this landscape
Where is her tender restraint
Where does she keep herself in this sky and sapling,
in the silence of house music, in the piercing and pounding

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT STILLNESS

What do you remember about stillness? Tell me about a storm that came and broke. How will you change? What is the weight of your relaxed state? How will you begin again? How will I unstick myself if I am indeed stuck. How will I move. How will I wait. How will I stay tender. How will I go off a pattern. How will I sense the weight instead of anticipating. What is the sequence from not crying to crying. What is the sequence from a state of failure and a stirring. Is there watching the shadow line creep across the water. Is there conspiring for more vegetables. Is there kale repulsion. What are the elaborate rituals to be done in public to inhabit you. When does your guard drop. Can running out of breath express this feeling. Does the touch prompt the storm break. Can a line of energy suspend until it breaks. Does calm amplify chaos and come back to itself. Can you tell the story as you float. How do you move the word bubble around you with only your torso. Can a call to caring lead to a break. This dream is between life and death, neither and both. This dream is being an unremarkable, ordinary being. This activates the musical and molecular practices of language. What is the storm of the tenderheart practice. The crying. The breaking. The crumbling. The new line of energy. Does a certain quality of touch produce variation, tripping, getting in each other's way, not making choices, having to recover,



Kimberly Alidio wrote *After projects the resound* (Black Radish, 2016). A tenure-track dropout and high-school teacher, she hails from Baltimore and lives in East Austin, Texas.