

LATINO POETRY

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GUSTAVO PÉREZ FIRMAT

Last-Mambo-in-Miami

Soy un ajiaco de contradicciones.
I have mixed feelings about everything.
Name your tema, I'll hedge;
name your cerca, I'll straddle it
like a cubano.

I have mixed feelings about everything.
Soy un ajiaco de contradicciones.
Vexed, hexed, complexed,
hyphenated, oxygenated, illegally alienated,
psycho soy, cantando voy.
You say tomato,
I say tu madre;
You say potato,
I say Pototo.
Let's call the hole
un hueco, the thing
a cosa, and if the cosa
goes into the hueco,
consider yourself en casa,
consider yourself part of the family.

(Cuban-American mí:
I singo therefore I am, sí.)

Soy un ajiaco de contradicciones,
un puré de impurezas:
a little square from Rubik's Cuba,
que nadie nunca acoplará.
(Cha-cha-chá.)