memory of today; sacred lands

Claudia Aburto Guzmán

Follow this and additional works at: https://via.library.depaul.edu/dialogo

Part of the Latin American Languages and Societies Commons

Recommended Citation
Aburto Guzmán, Claudia (2014) "memory of today; sacred lands," Diálogo: Vol. 17 : No. 2 , Article 47. Available at: https://via.library.depaul.edu/dialogo/vol17/iss2/47

This Rincón Creativo is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Latino Research at Via Sapientiae. It has been accepted for inclusion in Diálogo by an authorized editor of Via Sapientiae. For more information, please contact digitalservices@depaul.edu.
Claudia Aburto Guzmán
Chile - EE.UU.

memory of today

and the snake constricts at eight in the morning
seventy miles per hour ninety-eight degrees
stopping all except the silence of migrant eyes

she tightens her grip and tuesday was friday and
wednesday never happened in the mind of the man
who traded Chiapas for the memory of today

at a hundred and two she erases the line inch by inch
stopping time pulling off shades that eyes might see
the real color of skin on open flesh upon the sand
sacred lands

barren regions encrust our backs
above monsoon skies hold out
on summer winds

the rains bring erosion to the land
Coronado stumbled through
five-hundred plus years ago

fenceless then
the valley throbbed under his thirsty gaze

we drove up to lie here
canvasing the horizon with the coppered
skin he grew faint from

retelling stories that roll down the mountain
to rest on old stones that remember
his kneeled prayer to crown and cross
should he make it back

a palimpsest stretching across the wall to embed
hopeful breaths left hanging
on barbed wire fences