

CANDICE JOY OLIVA

HINGA

it is not our intention

we shall carry far away



whatever you exhale

to entrap yourself in your body

it is not our intention

we shall carry far away



whatever you exhale

to entrap yourself in your body

SIRING

Dangog'on an duros
nagdadagoldol

Mati'on mo
an pagkamoot niya

#yegwx: a weekend windstorm rattles
my rows of duplex dreams.

i learn to ask,

Tukdo'an po nindo ako

it is my hand they hold first
to show me how

they shape my fingers.

Siring sa palad

Siring man sa hawak

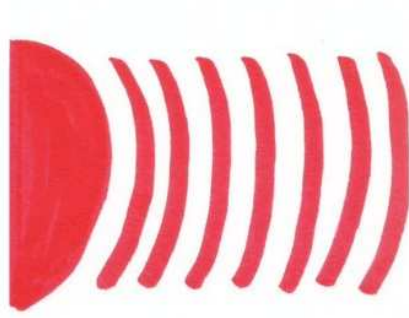
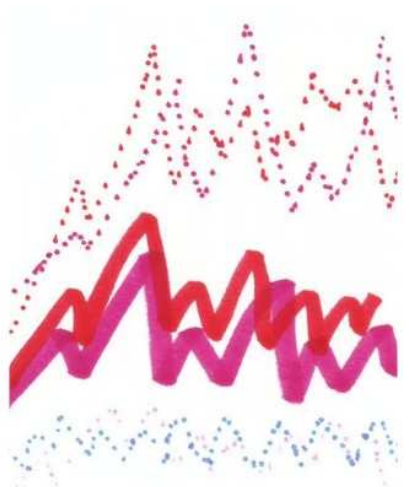
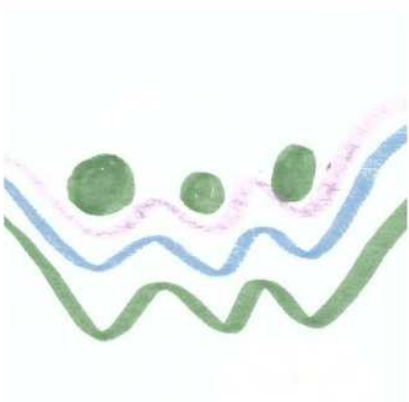
We change you
with every breath

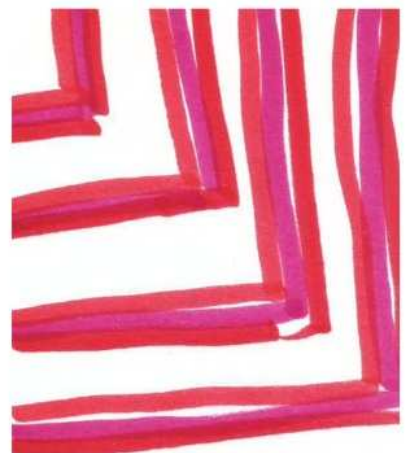
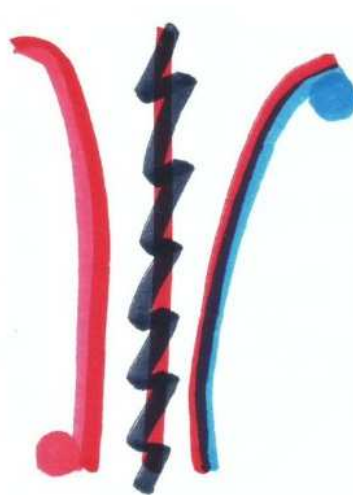
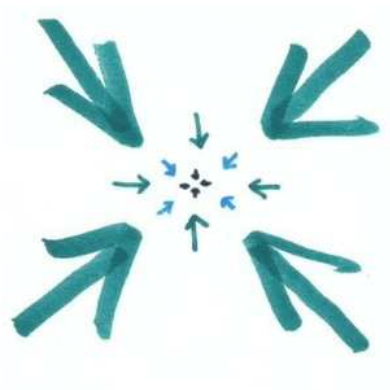
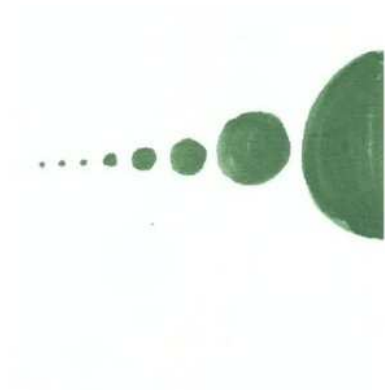
Hinga

All the new ways
we flow through you

Hiling'a

MATI'ON MO





feel it ¹⁷

KABILÓGAN

luway-luway
lalamonon kan Bulan
take your time. i have always
ran to you full speed ahead, cold
all at once. hinay-hinay lang. let me
greet you now, sa agos ng duyan mo
i am on your time. let me be engulfed
by your ocean, just as Bakunawa
devoured your sibling moons.
lamunin po ninyo ako
sa bilog niyo.

from here, the Moon could swallow me whole & i would let them.

CANDICE JOY OLIVA - POET / ARTIST STATEMENT

In putting these pieces together, I realized that I was also processing the question that Ifeoma Chinwuba asked the Horizons Writers Circle earlier this year: "How does Edmonton pass through you?" This place passes through me in the unsettling winds (unsettling, mostly for their lacking accompaniment of rain and thunder), but I learn to breathe through them. Walking along the trails around Whitemud Creek, I listen to the winds as they tug on my hand. I am reminded how much poetry emerges from simply *living*, breathing, walking, feeling. This thought is enough to quench the fear of my artistic practice taking the backseat. Then, it becomes a humbling comfort to feel full from watching the moon come and go from my bedroom window.

NOTES

SIRING, in Bikol, is a ubiquitous word. Among many of its meanings, here are a few: "likeness," "to become like something," "to turn toward," and "you're welcome."

KABILÓGAN means fullness or roundness. In Bikol and in Pilipino mythology, *Bakunawa* is the sea serpent who swallows the moon *Bulan* — thereby bringing eclipses, rain, and wind.