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## On "Looking" Ethnic

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*Hilda Llorens*

## On "looking" ethnic

*poem*

I became ethnic the day I left my fruit filled "exotic" island of yellows,  
greens, and red rainbows  
and arrived at the continent made of cement paved skies of dark shadows  
and pale faces  
with piercing bright "un-ethnic" eyes  
where my brown skin became the bullet that penetrated the beasts blue  
heart  
my ethnicity is the proof of my demise and sometimes my existence  
I am ethnic, I act ethnic, I eat rice and beans with platanos,  
I wear hot pink and orange outfits in the coldest day of the winter season  
I dress my taina face with bright red lipstick accentuating my overly  
enlarged  
African lips  
the scent of my ethnic perfume of the ripe island fruits I left behind  
somewhere in  
the Caribbean ocean  
I shake my ethnic hips to the rhythm of conga beats and dance to the  
rituals of my ancestors  
I cannot hide the burning fire in my warrior speech  
which yells to the world my "ethnicity!"

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