

I Come From A Teardrop

Poetry & Artwork by Youth at
Gardner Betts Juvenile Justice Center

Edited by
Czarina Aggabao Thelen
&
Rene Valdez



Red Salmon Arts Mission Statement

Red Salmon Arts is dedicated to the development of emerging writers and the promotion of indigenous, Chicana/o, Latina/o literature, providing outlets and mechanisms for cultural exchange and sharing the retrieval of a people's history with a commitment to social justice.

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Save Our Youth, a project of RSA, gives voice and empowers “at risk” youth, redirecting self-destructive patterns into positive and creative outlets through participation in writing workshops that focus on culture, arts, and literacy. Workshops help participants build self-esteem and develop verbal/written communication and conflict resolution skills. Previously facilitated by raúlsalinas, SOY has conducted extensive writing clinics in high schools, middle schools, and juvenile justice facilities. Save Our Youth is directed, facilitated, and organized by a mostly volunteer crew of educators, students, artists, activists, and visionaries.

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Hecho en Aztlán

c/s

DEDICATORIA

To the legacy and memory of Xicanindio elder
raúlsalinas
whose spirit lives and breathes
in the work of Save Our Youth
and all the voices of young people
caught in the jail machine.

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About the Facilitators and Guest Artist

CZARINA AGGABAO THELEN (Facilitator, Editor)

Czarina is a Pinay dancer who writes about indigenous peoples' cultural activism and organizing for ancestral land recovery. She previously was senior community organizer at Mothers on the Move and Youth on the Move in the South Bronx and was featured in Celina Su's "Streetwise for Book Smarts" (2009). She facilitates theater and writing workshops to uproot internalized oppressions and create social change.

JOÃO COSTA VARGAS (Facilitator, Preface)

João teaches Black Studies at the University of Texas at Austin and is a jazz musician.

TAÑIA RIVERA (Guest Speaker)

Tañia Rivera is an ex-pinta, who is a seventh-generation Tejana raised in East Austin. She began volunteering at Red Salmon Arts in the fall of 2009, and now is a staff member for RSA. Tañia is the founder of Red Salmon Arts' new project, Ex-Pinta Support Alliance (ESA), which organizes for social change by working collectively as a support network with formerly incarcerated women.

RENE VALDEZ (Facilitator, Editor)

Hailing from East El Paso, Texas, Rene is a working-class Chicano cultural worker, community organizer, and media activist, who migrated to Austin in the late 1990s. He began as a volunteer for both RSA, and the community-based Resistencia Bookstore. Since 2000, he has worked closely as a student, political comrade, and caring son of Xicanindio elder poet/human rights activist Raúl Salinas who founded RSA and Resistencia Bookstore. Presently, Rene is the Executive Director of Red Salmon Arts and one of the many caretakers of Resistencia Bookstore. For the past few years, he has facilitated the intensive writing workshops of Save Our Youth, a RSA project, and edited several SOY collections of poetry and writing.

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