

the body of christ

i was raised catholic. immigrant parents. conservative. mom was a cello prodigy. we had to be our best at all times. never fail. always produce. but most of all, fit in. that one came from dad, the cuban. be american. don't raise too many questions or others could become suspicious. but i had so many questions. thirteen years of catholic school — baptized, confirmed — the servile young alter boy. i struggled with the faithful identity even if the ritual and performance was magical. in college i found freedom, though my catholic demons still haunted. i found my way to newman house where an hippy ex vet congregated. his anti-establishment reading of the scriptures allowed me to feel catholic for the first time. father bob convinced me to become a eucharistic minister. i went through the training. one saturday night i went out. stumbled home with a boy who would fulfill my lustful rage. my fingers, in his ass, felt soft and warm and hard. sunday came and the schedule had me performing my faithful duties at the nine o'clock mass. night on my breath. "the body of christ, the body of christ, the body of christ..." with each utterance, my eyes zoomed onto my fingers. flashes of heart pounding thick musk of ass play. i never returned to mass again.

emotion pressing

imagination to touch

thick throbbing on thigh

hot breath of inside warming

searching for more than release

carmen diaz-granados ros — mi abuelita (“ta”)
16 july 1918 - 23 february 2011

construction started on the empire state building in 1929
an eleven year old carmen diaz-granados looked up at her father
and said
"one day i am going to live in the empire state building."

though she never became a resident to the iconic landmark
she did manage to reside in it's shadows
the upper east side would suffice
a refuge
citizen to the island of manhattan.

ta was solid ground
memories of cuba danced
on tongues happy with fresh fried plantains
scents wafting through the elevator shaft
we knew we were home.

she taught patience and courage
stories unending like life
grandmother and friend of support
unconditional. constant.
i know this remains.

matriarch of stability
our foundation
hija, hermana, madre, tía, abuela, bisabuela
she is our empire state building,
standing above all
in the skyline of her city.

places and other places (in-progress)

139 Skillman Avenue, 2B, Brooklyn, NY 11211

274 Morgan Avenue, 5th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11211

101 Village Drive, Unit 309, Staunton, VA 24401

61 Court Square #403, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

302 E 90 Street, 2D, New York, NY 10128

414 78th St, Brooklyn, NY 11209

43-01 22nd St, Long Island City, NY 11101

FLAT 4, 43 Woodfield Road, London, W9 2BA

Brickfield Rd, London E3 3LT, United Kingdom

183 Bow Rd, Bow, London E3 2SJ, United Kingdom

46 Willow Walk, London, UK FLAT 3, 22 Seymore Place, London, W1H 7NJ

80 DeKalb Avenue, 12A, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Brooklyn College, CUNY, Boylan Hall, Campus Rd, Brooklyn, NY 11210

Building 131, Brooklyn Navy Yard, Brooklyn, NY 11205

275 Park Avenue, 5D, Brooklyn, NY 11205

35 Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706

55 Lower Main St E, 2nd Floor, Johnson, Vermont 05656

30 Lower Main St W, Johnson, Vermont 05656

144 Oak St, Binghamton, NY 13905

89 Court St, 3rd Floor, Binghamton, NY 13901

48 Front St, Binghamton, NY 13905

205 State St, Binghamton, NY 13901

SUNY Binghamton

2535 Westlake Avenue, Oceanside, NY 11572