

Janice Lowe

Paz Talks of Being Followed

*Paz talks of being followed around stores
Vancouver*

*island sand never dirties him in any real sense
moreno by any another name is just as teeming with nuance*

*Motorboats rest
fisher folk pass
enough rum & coke with lime
palapas taste like mopeds
riding a family of four
down Avenida Ruedina Medina*

*in the salty buoyancy of motor oil
after dip sunset swim
man sleeps hugging abandoned pyramid
there over past ice cream colored houses
long enclosed porches*

*some don't think he's Mexican or First Nations
what Paz is is something approaching heatstroke*

*Paz wants more for his daughter Cristina
she wants to be Ixchel of the Moon and monsoons
powerfully mother enough to make death skip a page*

*Paz goes to work for vacation
Canada Oaxaca Santa Fe
A maker of little things
harmless knick knack stuff for sale
carved painted pointedly charmless*

*torsos toast in the lateday sun
watercolors don't get a blues right
tourists disappear into rows of sun gods plastered to full lip smiles*

the ingrown funnybone of "art" for pensioners

*the feeling of being pulled along
pulled along*