

ROBERT THOMAS

Sonnet with Taqueria and Fishtail

What one person can offer another
what I can offer you is so silly
I make a mean burrito but nothing
like what's in two dozen taquerias
in the Mission what did Bob Dylan call
Jerry Garcia a muddy river
that screams into the spheres *that* burrito
I can't get close not to mention the grace
of the jaguar or the slow explosion
of hydrangeas and that ramshackle tramp
in the bar's backwaters who jury-rigs
his bones into a man asks you to dance
spins you in turns so flawless and snazzy
fishtail sugarpush whip—Lord what am I

Robert Thomas's recent book, *Bridge*, is a sequence of lyrical stories published by BOA Editions. It received the 2015 PEN Center USA Literary Award for Fiction. His first book, *Door to Door*, was selected by Yusef Komunyakaa for the Poets Out Loud Prize and published by Fordham University, and his second collection, *Dragging the Lake*, was published by Carnegie Mellon. He has received a poetry fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and a Pushcart Prize. He lives with his wife and their three cats in Oakland, California, and is a proud banana-slug graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz!

PEP VENTOSA

Records, from the series
Street Rhythms, 2015
Archival print, 29 x 52 in



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