

## 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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