

## Narlan Matos translated by Sally Perret

Contributed by Narlan Matos

Â TWO POEMS BY NARLAN MATOS translated by Sally Perret Post-Columbians Â barely just barely the  
 Indians of the Americas failed to christianize the conquering Europeans Â the Europeans conquering barely just  
 barely the Indians of the Americas failed to christianize Â barely, just barely Â Enchanted Verses from La Havana  
 Â i write verses like one who walks at dawn down the calles of La Havana and sees magnolia trees pouring over walls  
 materialized as if they were starfish all around green branches guard them from the darkness other silent white flowers  
 observe them Â i write verses like one who strums a gypsy guitar in the Plaza de Espa±a in Seville on an afternoon  
 where a tree battles the slow wind like a bullfighter and a flamenco dancer makes birds with her hands (beneath their  
 cool shade poetry sleeps) Â i write verses like one who reads Florbela Espanca on a farm in Lisboa resting between  
 the ivory white of the city and the red sun in a tavern at a table next to a bottle of red wine i discover and fall in love  
 with the muse and the breeze and the salty sea at the end of the beach awaiting sailors that never left Â i write verses  
 like an awake Chilean island waits for a shipwreck like silver spoons under the Madrid morning sun the mistrust of  
 liberty before a flowery field like one who sees with his soul and no longer needs eyes Â i write verses like one who is  
 suddenly born like one who sees Andalusia like one who plays with the light on the skin of things like the wind  
 whispering to the port and the white sails like one who searches for sirens and treasures lost at sea Â i write verses  
 like lovers driven insane by beauty burn one afternoon in Andorra like those that commit suicide at dawn in the carriage  
 of the unspeakable without a letter or suicide note  
 i write verses like one who commits a crime and awaits punishment from the gods

translated by Sally Perret from Narlan Matos'

"Versos encantados desde la Habana" and "PÃ³s-Colombianos" Â Â Â