

i dream of tongues

i'm sitting in a bar in China
one of those drinking
establishments built
overnight to cater to
the Olympics crowd
featuring beers from all over
the globe and that damn
logo in my face wherever
i turn

i'm looking for a couple of poets
we wrote a book together and
we're meeting for the first time

i ask the bartender
if he knows them
he turns around and
grabs a manila envelope
from behind the register
drops it on the bar in
front of me

i reach inside and pull
out two copies of the book
each one has a human tongue
nailed to the cover
drained of blood
bleached and stiff

each tongue is tattooed
in black ink with the image
of a single feather
the quill is sharp and pointed
the barbs have all the minute
detail of a da Vinci sketch

whose barbaric vision is this?
to decorate the tongues of
poets with the ability
to soar above the clouds

why is it so beautiful?

Richard Vargas was born and raised in
L.A./Orange Counties. He studied under Gerald
Locklin at CSULB. He will be reading his poetry
during Mothpocalypse, a literary event taking
place on Sunday, November 4th, 5-7pm at The
Harwood Arts Center, Albuquerque, NM.

i dream of tongues

i'm sitting in a bar in China
one of those drinking
establishments built
overnight to cater to
the Olympics crowd
featuring beers from all over
the globe and that damn
logo in my face wherever
i turn

i'm looking for a couple of poets
we wrote a book together and
we're meeting for the first time

i ask the bartender
if he knows them
he turns around and
grabs a manila envelope
from behind the register
drops it on the bar in
front of me

i reach inside and pull
out two copies of the book
each one has a human tongue
nailed to the cover
drained of blood
bleached and stiff

each tongue is tattooed
in black ink with the image
of a single feather
the quill is sharp and pointed
the barbs have all the minute
detail of a da Vinci sketch

whose barbaric vision is this?
to decorate the tongues of
poets with the ability
to soar above the clouds

why is it so beautiful?

Richard Vargas was born and raised in
L.A./Orange Counties. He studied under Gerald
Locklin at CSULB. He will be reading his poetry
during Mothpocalypse, a literary event taking
place on Sunday, November 4th, 5-7pm at The
Harwood Arts Center, Albuquerque, NM.