

# MILISA COLEMAN

I am a Black gender non-conforming poet, writer, and visual storyteller based in Oakland, CA. I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Digital Media from Cleveland State University; minoring in Sociology and Black Studies. Throughout my life, writing has served as a creative outlet along with visual media. My work illustrates overlapping themes in nature, the human condition, and transcendence; working in tandem with my vegan and minimalist lifestyle. I completed the Baldwin House Urban Writing Residency through Twelve Literary Arts. My first publication is in the forthcoming issue of Obsidian: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora. In submitting to the Root Work Journal, I am contributing to the genre of ecopoetry by Black authors. Based on the call, I can learn approaches of incorporating theory from editors and featured poets.

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## Insurgent Being *After Langston Hughes*

an ecotone  
of sea

and Black -- germane to the plot

a myth  
ascribed by the colonial  
the material reality for this basin of

flesh *i lost my trees*

adam's hand of dominion marked

purpose *i lost my silver moons*

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existential ranking  
beget

Blackness -- a site of non-location

*caged in this circus of civilization*  
*caged in this circus of civilization*  
*caged in this circus of civilization*

the classified/the imagined/the  
non-self could never lay claim to the  
human

a fable  
siphoned unabridged sentience  
to a relegated domain of the other

Black -- liminal and  
seismic

slip toppled vitrine of an identity  
complex beget  
a spring

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