



**Luz Aguirre** is a MeXicana who has lived in New York since 1991; she was born in Nezahualcoyotl, Mexico, is utterly in love with her culture and lives it to the fullest in this marvelous city filled with Mexicanidad. She has participated in the writing workshop Los Lunes since 2009 and was published in the book *Voces con Eco: Writing from Mano a Mano* (NY Writers Coalition press, 2010) and *Voices: The Journal of New York Folklore* (Fall/Winter, 2010). She is a contributor to the blog Los Lunes.

**Miguel Ángel Andrade** is a Mexican writer born in Chicontla, Puebla. A poet and photographer, he studied law and literature. He is the author of the poetry books *¿estrés o es traza?* (Straza Editions, 2004) and *La letra inmersa* (Écrits de forges/ FOESCAP/ Mantis editores, 2011) a bilingual edition in Spanish and French.

He is currently in New York working on two photographic projects, one about Mexican migration, and the other is Andrade's own photography and poetry about Federico García Lorca's stay in New York while writing a genealogy in verse about light. His images assemble the dim stretch between light and word. Meanwhile his writing is an inquiry, through silence and disturbance, of natural elements as dwelling spaces. He is currently the editor of an academic magazine from The University of Puebla titled *Universidad*.

**Miguel Ángel Ángeles** is a queer Xican@ migrant from a small town in rural California. He has been transplanted in New York since 2005. The youngest child of his family, he has been fascinated by the word from a young age. He currently works teaching English to adult immigrants and has led English/Spanish bilingual writing workshop for the New York Writers' Coalition.

His short stories have been published in *The Best of Panic Anthology* and in *From Macho to Mariposa: New Gay Latino Fiction*. His poetry has been published in *Nahualliandoing Dos/An Anthology of Poetry in Nahuatl, Español and English*. He was invited to a Queer Latino writers event at Canisius College in Buffalo and participated in a VONA fiction writing workshop for writers of color with Junot Diaz.

**Alejandro Barragan IV** is a native from northern Mexico; he got involved in TV production and communications at the age of seventeen. Poetry has been always part of his life; his first publication was a small collection of poems in *La Hoja Murmurante* in 1989. In 1992 he becomes chief editor of his own magazine *De Concreto Cultural*. In 1994 he immigrated to the US where he later graduated from the University of Anchorage, Alaska and holds a bachelor's in Journalism and Communication as well as in Literature and Arts. He currently resides in New York where his interests compile studies of origins of Mexican dances as well as immigration and cultural identity patterns between the US and Mexico.

**Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders**

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**Carolina Drake** is from Buenos Aires, Argentina. She has juggled her double identity as American and as Latina ever since she came to the United States. She likes to write about bilingual education, her and other women's experiences with sexism, racism, and social class, and current events. She enjoys writing poetry and fiction in English and Spanish. Currently, she works as a middle school teacher and enjoys dancing, going around the city looking for people and characters to write about, and learning about life from her friends' stories. Follow her blog: <http://areyouhungup.wordpress.com/>

**Mariel Escalante** was born in Mexico City. She has a bachelor's in science studies from Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla. In order to realize some of her dreams she traveled to New York City, first to continue learning English and later to pursue studies in the medical-scientific field. Translation in this field as well as extracurricular support as a tutor in different subjects for elementary and middle school children that foster reading and literacy in both languages, English and Spanish, are some of the invaluable activities that currently complement what little free time she dedicates to writing, mostly children's literature.

**Daisy Flores** was born in New York City and her parents are from Puebla, Mexico. She attended school at The City College of New York and currently works for a non-profit organization. She participates in many events of Mano a Mano. It is through the writers' workshop, which they host, along with the NY Writers Coalition where Daisy does most of her writing.

**Judith Flores** was born and raised in México City; a young journalist who has worked for LGBT and Latino human rights for more than a decade. While doing voluntary work as a community organizer, interpreter and translator for several organizations in New York, Maryland and Washington DC, she has strengthened her connection with her Mexican roots. With friend's help and destiny, lately she has discovered a genuine interest in literary expression of feelings like love, surprise, desire, sadness and other sentiments and happenings originated in real life and in fantasy. All that filtered through her Indigenous-Asian soul, rebel and vivacious, conceived and forged within the Flores and Sanchez families and the mixture of tradition in corn tortillas, cactus and Sunday's barbecues.

**Evelyn Hernandez** is from Guatemala of Mayan decent. Her life is a jigsaw puzzle united by different stories and paths in which destinies trace a map of her convictions and writing. She utilizes writing as a medium to share stories about the condition of Latin American women through experiences that construct a road with a destination towards independence, trust, and pride about being a woman in a place where everything fluctuates in opposite directions.

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Her own story is a testimony of how she navigated fluctuating contradictions, and how her women characters are to cross frontiers, not only physical but also intangible, in a social reality that prevents us from remaining closed eyed in front of discrimination and inequality. Writing is the author's way to combat prejudice and fear and to overcome personal obstacles. Her writing is a message that pressures, and aims to be a letter of encouragement for those who, at the end of the day, feel sunken.

**Miriam Mora** was born and raised in the state of Puebla, Mexico; she currently resides in Brooklyn, New York. Just another immigrant struggling to excel in this country despite the obstacles she encounters every day. And despite all these obstacles she found a beautiful space that values writing in Los Lunes writing workshop at Mano a Mano. It's there her imagination takes flight in order to write poetry.

**Gabriel Rivera** was born in Guerrero Mexico, and has resided in New York for over ten years. He works in construction and his favorite hobby is playing the guitar. Gabriel was part of the writing workshop Los Lunes in 2009. He was published in the anthology *Voces con Eco: Writing from Mano a Mano* in 2010.

**Danae Sanchez** was born in Atlixco de las Flores Puebla, Mexico. At the age of 9, she immigrated to New York City. Ms. Sanchez obtained an Associate Degree from the Borough of Manhattan Community College and Bachelors of the Arts in Spanish from the City College of New York. As an aspiring poet she joined the Los Lunes writing workshop two years ago and hasn't stopped coming. This will be the first time her work is published.

**Mary Ellen Sanger** led the bilingual workshop for Mexican immigrants and their families at Mano a Mano, since 2008, until her recent move to Colorado in August 2013. She lived for 17 years in Mexico, and has published short stories and poems in Spanish and English in Mexico and the United States. Her essay "A Grammar of Place" was anthologized in *Mexico, a Love Story*. She has written a collection of short stories inspired by the women of Ixcotel State Penitentiary in Oaxaca, Mexico where she spent thirty-three days and nights falsely imprisoned in the fall of 2003. Her three chapbooks of "poem-a-day" poetry written in collaboration with Yvonne Garrett are available on Amazon.com.

**Tochimani Flavio** was born in a little town called San Agustin Calvario in Cholula, Puebla. He lived in Mexico City for five years where he studied Hispanic Language and Literature at the Faculty of Filosofía y Letras at UNAM. Since 2008 he lives in New York where he participates in writing workshops. He works in the restaurant industry and is constantly working on new literary projects such as poetry and novel. He lives in the Bronx with his wife and son, whom are his moral support and encourage him to move forward with the challenges life offers.

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