

ESPAÑOLA

The Heart Moves to the Monarca's rattle
El corazón se mueve al son del guaje del Monarca

Primer paso: Wait for the rattle of the Monarca's gourd and step out.

You must follow the river north from Española, the heart urged, follow the river that you knew as a child. El río grande del norte, upon whose banks and in whose bosque you played. You must feel its humors again, the healing balm of its mud beneath the soles of your feet. Bare your skin to its warm volcanic stones tinged red by November afternoons. Sleep in the shade of its cottonwoods below the highway to Taos. Listen, the heart instructs, put out the noise of the city and the passing cars, listen until the murmur of the river's gentle flow is indistinguishable from the beating of your *corazón*.

You must follow this river and no other, the heart said, because it is the river that has bathed the souls of many before you; its cool waters have given life to the valley's orchards. Its waters are powerful, but at summer solstice, on *el día de San Juan*, they are miraculous, a few drops upon your forehead and you shall be healed and whole again.

Paso segundo: Listen for the violin and tamber.

When you have found the strength to renew your commitment to all that is sacred, the heart counsels, return to that spot beneath el Pedernal and the black mesas at Medanales. There, at the confluence of the río chama and the río grande, the birthplace of all *mantos*, watch and listen as the rivers entwine like lovers, the gentle eddies pulling the red earth from the Abiquiú hills into the swirl of the muddy current from the north. When your heart and your mind are one again, past, present and future time unfolds in the waters of the río chama and río grande mixing, mixing, like the blood of your people.

Ultimo paso: Step in behind the matachines.

Reflexions del Corazon: Espanola: The Heart Moves to the Monarca'a rattle - El corazón se mueve al son del guaje del monarca

Date

1992-93

Medium

Print

Description

Text- free verse

Dimensions

sheet: 15 1/8 x 11 3/16 in. (38.4 x 28.4 cm)