

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Conney Williams: Three Poems

Conney Williams · Thursday, March 30th, 2017

Conney Williams is a poet, actor, community activist, and performance artist. He has two collections of poetry, *Leaves of Spilled Spirit from an Untamed Poet* (2002) and *Blues Red Soul Falsetto* (2012). In 2015, he released two critically acclaimed CDs of his poetry accompanied by music titled *River&Moan* and *Unsettled Water*. He is the Artistic Director at the World Stage and Coordinator for the Anansi Writers Workshop.

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## zona colonial

El Malecon heaves  
like a lost European explorer  
who dispenses disease  
with each conquest  
she heaves  
at curb and cobblestone  
until African and native bone  
rise middle of the calle  
and protrude from  
the stone and mortar  
there is no memory here  
of chains or rape  
and monuments are  
no place for blood  
to return home  
sharp left turns  
narrow one-ways  
these caminos  
weren't made for  
a '57 Chevy BelAir, or  
such a reticent revolution  
here the sunset dresses

in her best orange  
ancient architecture  
transform into ballerinas  
dancing off sugar sky  
with soft new skin

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## cuban shower

the spigot laughs  
from the wall above my head  
not even my nakedness  
warms her  
nothing makes her hot  
her open mouth  
shocks  
brain and skin  
brace my body  
like a conquistador  
crossing the Atlantic  
for the first time

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## I am not afraid of you

I have seen you  
inside the folded edges  
of poorly developed photographs  
pieces torn from self-portraits;  
I have seen you across the room  
at parties neither of us wanted to attend  
the look up on your face  
always tells the whole story of you  
how do you hide you so well  
between scar of unintentional lovers  
and the soft sedative of tears  
filling your safe deposit box  
I know where you hide it  
from everyone you have ever known

*(Author photo by Alexis Rhone Fancher)*

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