EMBROIDERING MEMORIES

I find a feeling in the white floss I use to sew
my fingers graze the thread
I shut my eyes and trace the end
of the six entwined strings
and take them in my tongue, swallow
after swallow into my esophagus
the trail leads me to the
dining room of my childhood overflowing
with table, toys, chairs, china cabinet
my Nani and mommy sewing green
floral fabric into frocks
I heave up the white lace collar and
begin to embroider
binding the blood of generations
with every prick of the needle
into finger and canvas

TANEESH KAUR

Taneesh Kaur is a teaching artist of East Indian descent based in San Francisco, a social justice advocate who uses nature to understand and dismantle systems of mental and physical oppression. Her visual art has been shown by galleries in the Bay Area and SoCal, and has received praise from the international Luxembourg Art Prize 2022. Their poetry appears in the SF Public Library's Poem of the Day, The Bloom, Great Weather for Media among others, and was long-listed for the 2021 Frontier Poetry OREN prize. Their poetry chapbook "Thawing" is forthcoming in 2023. Additionally, their residencies with SF-based Queer Rebel Productions incorporate original poetry and paintings to tell stories through experimental film. Their essays appear on Dictionary.com, with research also in the peer-reviewed journal Discourse Studies. Taneesh has a Master's in linguistics from San Francisco State University, with training abroad in Mexico and Chile. More of her work can be found in English and Spanish at www.TaneeshCantos.com.

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