Suburbia

Reading the newspaper I feel like an accomplice;
a voyeur is also guilty of something.
So the murders, the corruptions,
and calculated larcenies against the spirit
reside in me too.
It's easy, I suppose, to pretend
I don't pay rent to the conspiracies.
And that the church is immune
because it's tax exempt.
But from a landfill or cemetery
grow multi-colored flowers.
Who can say then
from what polluted soils
my blossoms will spring?

"Oppression makes even God smell foul"
-Felipe Luciano

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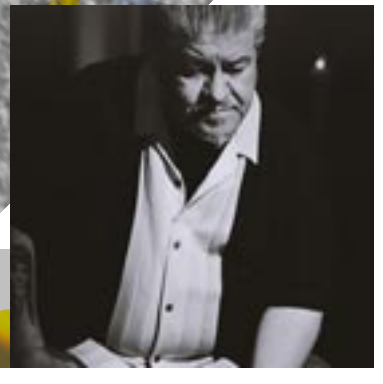

Luis J. Rodriguez

Luis J. Rodriguez served as Los Angeles Poet Laureate from 2014-2016. He's founding editor of Tia Chucha Press and co-founder of Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural & Bookstore in the San Fernando Valley. He has 16 books in all genres, including his last poetry book, "Borrowed Bones." His most recent book is "From Our Land to Our Land: Essays, Journeys & Imaginings from a Native Xicanx Writer."