THE MAYAN SUN

IVÁN SALINAS

Rises every night
at seven pm––
sharp

The Mayan sun is a burning crystal
hanging from the ceiling
inside a black box theater

The program for the evening
features a young poet in perfect light
reciting his final words on the podium

Kinich Ahau
I offer you
the soul of this poorly dressed boy

At the end of the ceremony
they will cut out my heart
they will throw my corpse down the stairs of the lobby
they will have cheap wine with cookies and strawberries
they will dance a jazz track
and their veins will swell
the whites of their eyes

The Mayan sun is a sun of innocent sacrifices
and every poet is a brave culprit
offered every weekend

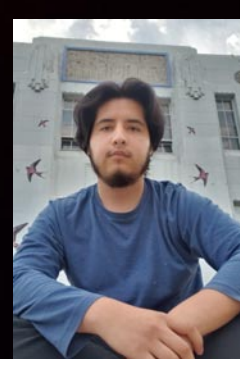
They came for the blood
and reserved the best seat in the house

Kinich Ahau
jaguar of the underworld
this poet wants to gift you
his beating heart

Call the host to sharpen their knife
and conclude this artificial ritual!

From my carcass
flowers will be reborn

Cobalt Poets Series # 533 ~ July 19, 2022



Iván Salinas is an undocumented poet born in Ciudad de México. He immigrated to the San Fernando Valley when he was ten years old to reunite with his family. He received a BA in English, Creative Writing, from Cal State Northridge where he was involved in student organizations advocating for quality of education that addresses racism and social justice. He's continued his work with several organizations outside of academia including Otros Dreams en Acción and The Social Impact Center. His work has appeared in *Backlash Lit, Curious Publishing, Drifter Zine, Dryland*, and *La Raíz Magazine.* He is the current Programs Coordinator at Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center. Iván lives in Panorama City with Madi and their dog Rocket.