There are Beautiful Things

There are beautiful, and not so beautiful things.

There are trees that hold the bodies of black Men dangling like umbilical chords from branches and ropes.
black women too.

There are also brown bodies being frozen stiff by the frosty felony committing fingers of ÌCE. But there is also beauty

I create magic with the kids in my old High school.
we are teaching students how to create their own zines.

They are giving 30 year sentences for zines these days.
I say give me 100 years.
watch my children
thrive without me.
they knew there are consequences to being conscientious.

We all live now with the possibility of having the wrong skin at the wrong place at the wrong time. we are redefining crime.

Crime: The act of not being a criminal while being of Mexican descent.

But there are also beautiful things. I tought my son how to play chess and now he can beat me.

I was a single parent raising my daughter and now she takes me out to eat.

There are beautiful Mexican American Women and Men who deserve living.
they are in between two countries.
one country wasn't fiscal enough to make them stay
and the other one, tried to lock them up and kill them for profit.

I am in between,
nature and machine.

in between Woke
and American Dream.

it seems black Men and women are hanging from trees.
and brown men and women
are hunted.
it seems.

But there are also beautiful things.
This is one of them.
I am the love child of Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez.
and
I
Am
Fucking
Beautiful.

CARLOS ORNELAS

Carlos Ornelas is a MesoAmerican poet activist and educator from Lynwood, California and the author of two poetry collections, Ketchup: Sopa de Gato (World Stage Press) and Villain's Vernacular Poems & Stories (Riot of Roses Publishing House). Ornelas is an advocate for womens rights, homeless rights and prison reform. He has been published in numerous anthologies including ILL Anthology Vol.'s 2 and 3 by (curious press), La Raíz Magazine (La Raiz), Obsedian Tongues and Dim Lights (El Martillo Press), Journal X, Circulo de Poetas, Poems in Praise of Libraries (World Stage Press), Together We Rise (Daxson Poetry), Shooting Stars at Sky (Momma's Kitchen Press) Long Beach Spits Fire (CLI), San Diego Annual, Rattle, and many more. Ornelas is an educator who teaches poetry writing seminars to students through Cal Poets in the Schools. An integral part of the Chicano Renaissance, Ornelas writes for the advancement of the arts and the preservation of culture.

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