

Sergio Ortiz

My Sea is Strong

I confess, in the heart of night,
I imagine myself cascading
on my lover's body. My jewel
is a dead sea, salty and safe.
Blessed lover soaked with my body.
He who drags me to his shore.

Who gathers the moans I sow in seashells.
Who tosses my kisses back to the sea.
Who knows stones are also carved by water.
Who steals whatever I have with precision.
Who recognizes when to replace what was stolen.

This is how I love you,
every second committed
to your pleasure, but I never
say it. I hide the salt
crashing on your reef
inside my veins.

Sergio A. Ortiz is the founding editor of *Undertow Tanka Review*. He is a two-time Pushcart nominee, a four-time Best of the Web nominee, and 2016 Best of the Net nominee. 2nd place in the 2016 *Ramón Ataz Annual Poetry Competition*, sponsored by Alaire Publishing House. He is currently working on his first full-length collection of poems, *Elephant Graveyard*.