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## Kitchen Song

Vondalee Knoll

*Grand Valley State University*

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## Kitchen Song

by Vondalee Knoll

there is homemade bread  
in this rising  
there are dishes  
in this stacking  
kitchen memories  
in this collection  
where tortillas used to hold  
black beans and warm cheese  
was your thick milk  
between my legs  
there where you still linger  
in memories  
with your dark skin  
your intense black eyes  
more to me  
than your love throbbing  
honesty your sensitive mouth  
whispering love  
your arms my kitchen  
(you left me  
my soldier boy  
off to war zones  
of your own)

and i filled my kitchen  
with loaves of bread rising  
i married a fat white man  
and his belly rises above me  
his words the dishes  
in this stacking  
it is he who i need most now  
and you who i wanted  
i still want  
but i will not leave  
this bread rising  
or return to your arms  
my brown armed kitchen  
you return to me from small wars  
and love-tryst battles  
but i make no tortillas  
as we greet days gone by  
and i live with my white man  
my white bread rising



Untitled linoleum cut, by Valerie Jenkins

## Spiritual

by Vondalee Knoll

Power to de strong  
Grief to de weak  
De Lawd say the earth gonna go to de meek  
Sometime it looka like de Lawd be wrong.

## Lover's Haste

by Patricia Baker

Coffee granules spilled  
A chipped mug left half empty  
On a lone white stove.

## Autumn

Autumn wind totters  
A candle's flame, dances, dies  
Deep darkness settles.