

The **HOMELAND** of



By Claudia Santos

WHY I LIKE IT: *Poetry Editor HEZEKIAH writes...Three things I love, setting aside zymology, are: Philately for its art, history and lick-ability; vexillology for its symbology, geography and flap-ability and, flatology . . . 'cause it's such a gas. But mostly, I adore the brevity by which Claudia Santos captures our hearts romancing the Mexican flag. I thought it was "green" and "red," stop-and-go, flanked by a coat-with-arm: Eagle, Cactus, Serpent (Agave is actually a succulent, and the serpent's a worm, a larva to be exact, Gusano de Maguey (sounds like a budding aristocrat) ...distilled, bottled and capped.) Claudia, seemingly the last earthly romantic-idealist left, sees the banner as "olive" and "carmine." Still, you're wont to fall in love but its cant that changes minds. She's a fresh voice bespeaking in lingering breaths—then again, maybe she just fell for a cad.*

The Homeland of Us

A green flag

I want to talk about you with the people I love.

A red one

I don't wanna talk about us (with you).

An olive one

I like to think about you (on my own).

A carmine one

I never think of the future (There's none).

A lie

I never think of the future.

and something I hide

There's none.

THE POET SPEAKS: *My poem is inspired by popular media and youth's awakening to the recognition of important relationship signals. I try to highlight that these signals do not need to be just green or red but can also be part of the unclear in-between. But also, I try to remind us that flags can remind us of our homeland, of places we belong to, of elements that represent us, and that people and relationships can also be territory, can also make us feel like we belong. Poetry (reading it and writing it) is important to me because it helps me reshape my understanding of the world.*

AUTHOR BIO: Claudia Excaret Santos Campusano (@claudiaexcaret) (she/her) is a 23 years old Mexican poet, interpreter and translator. Clau is an avid reader who loves reading young adult and watching trashy tv. Founder of Libros en el transporte and co-founder of La secta de los libros. Her academic essays have been published in Gradesaver and presented in different congresses such as Conell, Encuentro de letras modernas, and CIELL 2021.

