NEGRITA CON AVENA

Copyright Jheyda McGarrell Published by MFA Brown Art 2019 Negrita Con Avena is the first iteration of my adult solo interactions with Mexico City as the descendant of Indigineous Mexicans and Guyanese people. I truly fell in love with CDMX, with the independence I felt in reclaiming an identity, I still (even working my hardest), feel othered from at times. I am still deciphering how to live in this Black and Mexican body; how to inhabit a multifaceted identity that, at times, feels grating to exist in; how to queer traditions; and how to promote acceptance and create a relationship with the elders of the community of mutual respect and teaching.

This set of photos is what I noticed. Simply the things that caught my eye virgin to Mexico City, campesina in the big city. Sitting with memories of tias laughing over Cafe con Leche, I am them, I am different. I am my black coffee with honey, beige dripped into black, sweet at the sip. There are pieces of me I am still finding, pieces in the astral realm, pieces sitting at the hipsof the sun goddess at the temple steps. There are things I am just now noticing- sitting with occurences so normal to others, yet so foreign to me, a muscle memory I don't remember developing. I call this an iteration because my relationship with Mexico and Mexico City is an ancestral bond that draws me back like a moth to a light. I am finding comfort in the tradition mixing with queerness, comfort in the fact I have souls different to what has been previously accepted to float back to.

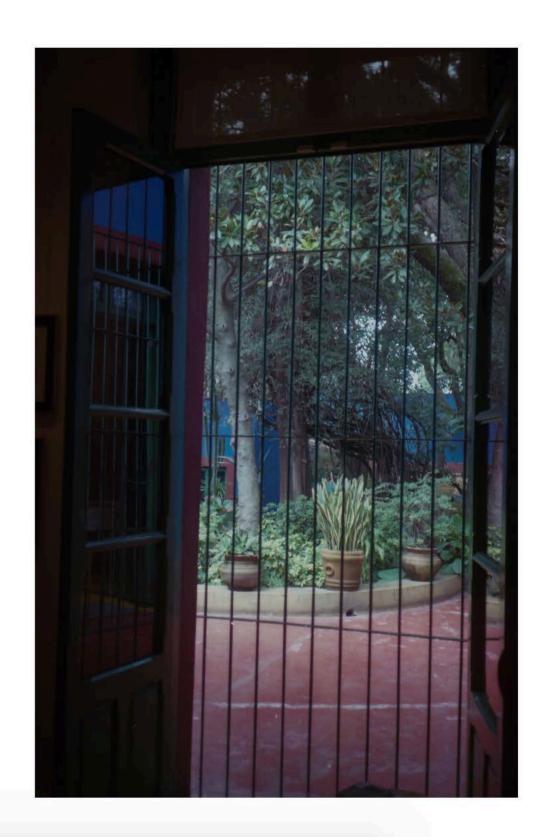
Blue houses that smell like my childhood, a long haired lady opening her door to me late at night, a man with a leather touch; I am the things I partake in.

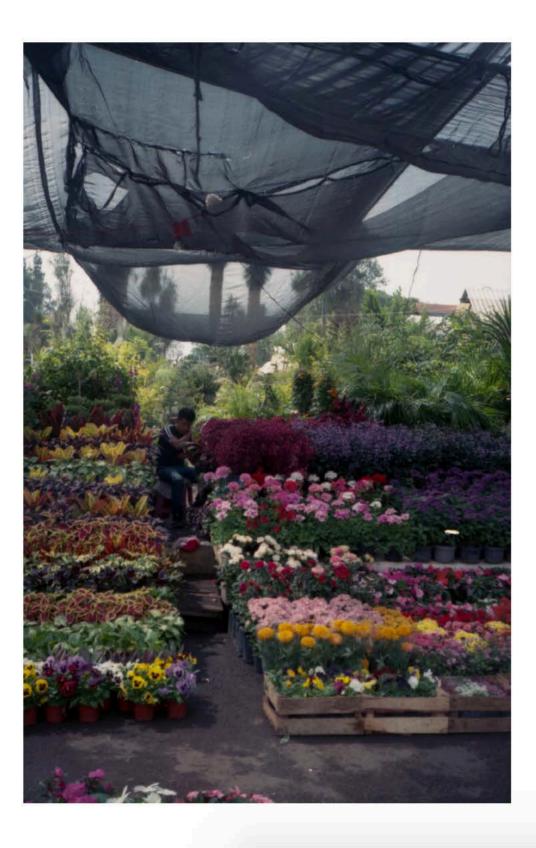
The relics I brought back whisper to me I've found love

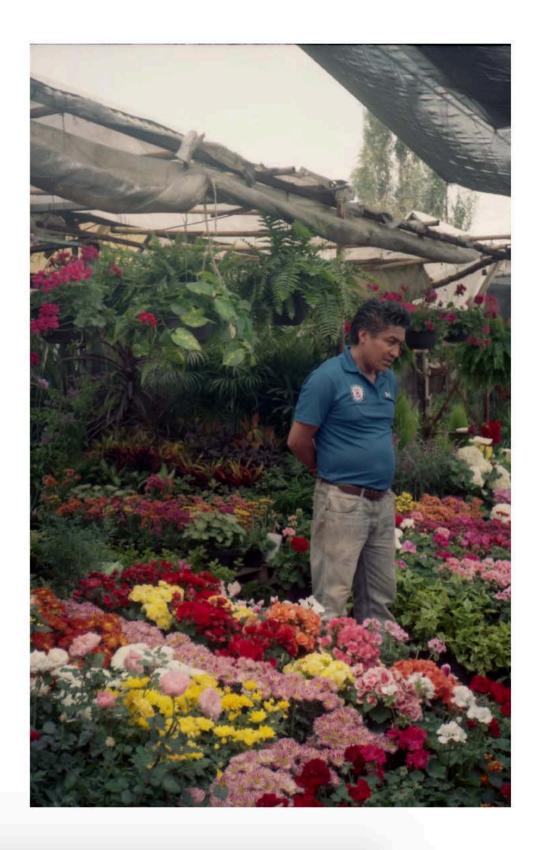
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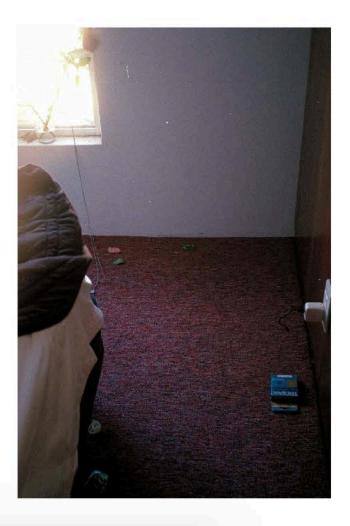








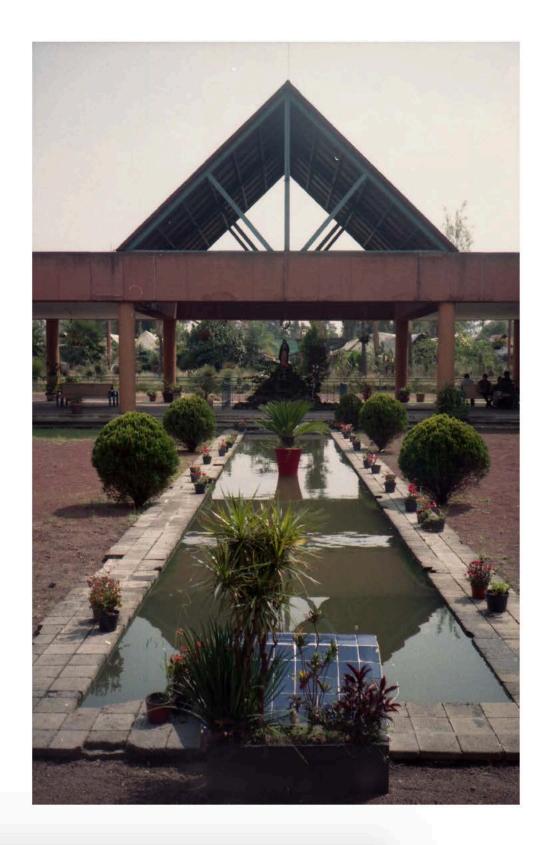
met a man who told me he norships the sun and I - Said I did too, he said, this is a land of the sun and the moon and he age anake day in and night out begging for the nest one, they have loved eachothere and, so they will love vs". I agreed. I told him I have to ved the days where the skies spread upon and pays of light beam down only one certain parts. I manted so badly to be in the spot where the beams hit unen I nake, I from this grey day, I nanted So bady to let the mobilight gride thy restless nights. They have loved eachothere and so they will love me













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