

ARIANNA ORTIZ

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GOF Applicant

ARTISTIC RESPONSE

"Poetry ought to have a mother as well as a father."

No one ever told me how to write

a poem

But mamma was always there

She was big

She was loud

She couldn't cook

Worth a damn

But she was there

I watched her closely

I watched her choose

work

men

work

And not California

And not the painting

She made of the cat or

The woman in Peru

Even with her doubts

She let me sing

dance

play

She was there

Believe me, I saw

No one ever told her any other way

I still don't know how to write

a poem

But the poem

was

always

there
