

I won't remain anonymous*

RYANE LEÃO

Translator: Marguerite Itamar Harrison

I won't remain anonymous
I'll say my name repeatedly
I'll tell the stories of women who came
before me
one by one
don't bother shielding your ears
because an open wound
doesn't just echo outwardly
but inwardly
they'll see my existence
rushing
through every alley
on every wall
at the margins
in every center

if every life story matters
and if we can only change
what we call out
then we'll become action
with title, beginning, middle
without end

* The original poem in Portuguese is included in the collection *Querem nos calar: Poemas para serem lidos em voz alta*, edited by Mel Duarte, Planeta do Brasil, 2019, pp. 203–04).

audre lorde already spoke
rise up, say I AM
and no one will erase you
your silence
will not
keep you safe

so shout out
it might not make you
unshakeable
but every woman who speaks up
is invincible.

RYANE LEÃO is a Black lesbian poet and teacher who was born in Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, and now lives in São Paulo. She has two poetry collections, both published by Planeta do Brasil: *Tudo nela brilha e queima* (2017) and *Jamais peço desculpas por me derramar: poemas de temporal e mansidão* (2019). Her poetry—aimed at empowering and defending the rights of Black women—has been posted on wall murals and recited in poetry slams. Ryane Leão’s project “onde jazz meu coração” has a vast following on social media.

MARGUERITE ITAMAR HARRISON is Professor of Portuguese & Brazilian Studies at Smith College where she is recipient of the Sherrerd Prize for Distinguished Teaching. She has an MA in Latin American art history from UT Austin and a Ph.D. in Portuguese & Brazilian Studies from Brown University. *Unremembering Me*, her English translation of Brazilian author Luiz Ruffato’s novel *De mim já nem se lembra*, was published by Tagus Press in 2018. Her most recent translations include poetry by Jarid Arraes and Natalia Borges Polesso.