#### America is Me, America is NOT Me

America is Me The Hope, The Promise that withered on the backbones of relatives that stitched the red blood and blues spewed from black dreams on the stripes of the American flag.

America is Not Me Our founding fathers built a country on morals That once deferred dreams through Slavery and Assassinations. Gunning down black thoughts Like runaways.

Yet still...

America is Me The (new) hope, the promise that lingers on the transgressions of a new generations belief In politics and not the politics of color Or (the) color of an American citizen Change? Yes we can

Because...

America is Not me As it currently stands, until we no longer minimize the values of our fellow American citizens. Whose burdens are entangled In the same star spangled banner that we all pledge allegiance too.

#### *For...*

America is Me, America is NOT Me Her thorns, ever so prickly, as I peel off the, She love me, she loves me not petals from *Americas* rose. The same rose that once grew Tupac from concrete yet gunned him down w/o justice

America is Me, America is NOT Me

## <u>Perform My Blackness:</u> Open Letter to Africana Studies and Black Studies Majors

The Negro must climb the racial mountain but don't look down cuz' negroes are falling off the raft. Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaa in the water wade in the water, dead. But where are all the Negro spirituals? So soulful uplifting the nation black citizens, my people.

Where is that voice of reason? Contemplating the true dilemma, as that Strange Fruit in America. *The Poet, The Writer, The Lyricist* who turns black pain into black art by squeezing the rhythm and blues out of neo-slave narratives.

The Preacher, The Singer lifting every voice to sang a harmonious oral history of the black experience, The unconventional black artist *The Comedian, The Actor* who like those tall tales passed down from African Griots, paints a vivid history rooted in the melody of black struggle.

The pain echoed though the wonders of performance arts the continuity as fluid as our black identity as we break the verbal barriers of the written language and turn generations of silence into a inter-disciplinary approach of black subjectivity, one fused with the cadence of rhymes and a multitude of expressions

## **Mind Fucker**

Over the horizon, remote dreams fade away like the New York City skyline amid blackout.

Yet my thoughts remain (as) dim lit candles, faint mental pictures, dried up sentiments barricaded in. My minds closed, thought stream road-blocked.

Imagination express line lies underground, three stops down the subway. Concepts are boroughs away from concreteness. Can I Brooklyn Bridge them?

Screw me over-words, take my minds' cherry.

Opinions excite and stimulate my mind. Penetrate through fresh virgin visions, fluid ideas that mind fuck the best of us.

I keep these thoughts to myself, stroke them into reality and ejaculate immaculate wet dreams.

# It's Me or The Dog

You said I was barking up a storm taking things out of perspective with that carpet muncher.. Lets be honest. There's no more cushion on our love seat. These Canine scraped floorboards, marks up MY territory. Slip'n'fall puppy chow accidents occur to the higher end pedigree.

The muzzle is off.

I can no longer be mute on your mutt. It's not you, it's me. it's not *this* mans' best friend. Destructive too.... Rough roufff ruff?

It's me or the dog

### November Dreams of a Drunken 20-21 Year Old

I stare at the six layer cake with miniature people forced to stand guard and smile while a knife hammers away the single life to serve up a huge piece of commitment.

I look off into November's heavy breeze, which settles in a seesaw manner golden-brown hand- like leaflets, that once stood still against the destructive kiss of a late spring downpour. It now swings and rocks against the curve of the wind to a peaceful death. My life is now over.

"You may now kiss the bride." I slowly pull back the veil, to reveal the woman of my dreams.... I awake.

I lie surrounded by darkness.

The only Natural Light, is printed on the empty beer cans left abandoned on the coffee table. The scent of stale beer and orange juice, covers my nose like Autumns lost golden treasures as they rotate amidst light breezes from tree to pavement. But my apartment reeks of unfinished beverages and of a reality to hardcore for my two freshly opened crusted brown eyes.

A best man? No, only a best friend. who sits uncomfortably asleep in the same position as I last saw him: A beer in one hand, his phone in the other. I take three Motrin's in an attempt to silence the construction team that didn't seem to get the, "I'm sleep memo."

My dream, the girl of my dreams, I try to remember, but I could barely remember anything from last night. Those thoughts blown away. *Fall.* Maybe it's because of the season Before dozing off, I catch sight of what is barricaded in between the walls of the man-made empty beer can fort. The last slice of birthday cake lies half bitten with no frosting.

I wish I could turn 21 every year.