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## Two Poems: Sim Caux Suix; Gux-Taaix's Cornbread

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## Creative and Literary Works

### Two Poems

Janit Von Saechao

#### Sim Caux Suix

Pricked middle fingers  
pull red thread through fabric,  
spilling siqv, the same color as the blood  
I expect to see surface.

The pulsing pain  
reminds me to take a moment  
and admire how these hands, at 26  
have taught themselves  
the tradition of congx-congx  
through three dollar  
department-store sewing sets  
and scattered youtube searches.

Second generation struggles of  
fuqc jueiv hnaangx namx  
for reclamation  
still yield  
divine lessons delivered  
in the form of sim caux suix  
on the importance of  
patience  
precision  
presence  
all combined to create tapestries of  
complex perfection  
Hnangv mbou ganh nyei reflection.



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## **Gux-Taaix's Cornbread**

The smell of raw corn reminds me of you.  
Warm, wrinkled hands  
scrubbing sweet kernels against  
the same cheese grater  
you'd had since I was 4.

All that work for  
your favorite cheap meal  
made of ga'maeqc  
mixed with water  
white flower  
and sugar  
poured into a pan  
and patiently waited upon  
til toasted golden brown.

You called it ga'maeqc njuov  
but it was more like a pancake  
than bread.  
Pulled apart to reveal sweet,  
steaming, sticky goo.  
Crispy on the outside  
and soft on the inside,  
perfect for chomping dentures through.

## **About the Author**



**Janit Von Saechao**, is a non-binary, indigenous Khmu and Iu Mien writer and creator currently residing in Portland, OR. Born and raised in the East Bay Area, they are the first child of refugees from the U.S. Secret War in Laos. Their pieces are often uncensored documentations of their most vulnerable moments of growth, change and discovery. They recognize that their voice, in its many forms has been the basis of their survival and ability to thrive. Through creating, they explore their relationships with their identities while actively striving toward artistic and cultural preservation for their peoples. They dream of a future for their community that allows them to return to what they have always known— a life that is decolonized and full and free. Follow their work at [janitsaechao.com](http://janitsaechao.com)



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