



# ANOTHER CHICAGO MAGAZINE



## “Rainbow Shoes” by Eduardo Arocho, excerpted from *Wherever I’m At: An Anthology of Chicago Poetry*

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Kapow Impasto, Rebecca Taubman Schnitzer

I am the Tour Guide

I am the Docent

I walk with rainbow shoes

CONVERSE – thick-laces

I haven't gone anywhere – I haven't left

I've survived La *División* Street – *Paseo Boricua* is next

Chicago – Our story defies your attempts to gentrify

These steel *Banderas* – are *Residentes Permanentes*

I walked here when we were within

Shooting distance from each other

I walk here now and we are within

Loving distance from each other

had

I remember before I

Rainbow shoes

On this corner

The BLUE-shoe gang

On that corner

The GREEN-shoe gang

On the next corner

The BROWN-shoe gang

Three blocks away

The RED-shoe gang

Six blocks away

The YELLOW-shoe gang

So many obstacles – colonial divisions

The wrong shoes might get you jumped

Or chased – Just to get to school a few blocks

Away – So I prayed for rainbow shoes

They came to me – A gift from The Three

*Un tesoro de los santos*

*No son JORDANS* – But I can jump

*¡Triumfando!*

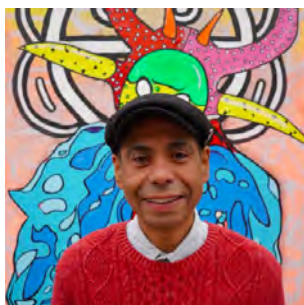
I'm not afraid anymore – we made it difficult to be erased  
 Murals in every corner – Our-story is safe  
 I walk in freedom now – *yo ando feliz*  
 Steel Banderas above me – and rainbow shoes on my feet

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*Wherever I'm At: An Anthology of Chicago Poetry. Edited by Donald G. Evans and Robin Metz. Chicago: Chicago Literary Hall Of Fame, After Hours Press and Third World Press, 2022. Excerpt of one poem.*

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**Eduardo Arocho** is a poet, author and professional tour guide. He is the author of six poetry chapbooks and his poems appear in *Wherever I'm At, An Anthology of Chicago Poetry* (Chicago Literary Hall of Fame, After Hours Press, and Third World Press, 2022); *We Are* (Chicago Community Trust, 2016); *Catalogia I: El Amor* (Palabra Pura Poets) (Pandora Lobo Estepario Press, 2013); *El Movimiento De Los Reyes Hacia La Estrella Sola* by Ramón López (2008); *Diálogo Journal*; *CENTRO JOURNAL*; *Power Lines: Anthology* (Tia Chucha Press, 2000); and *Open Fist: Anthology of Young Illinois Poets* (Tia Chucha Press, 1993). He is currently completing work on his forthcoming poetry manuscript, *Nació Maestro*.

\*



**Rebecca Taubman Schnitzer** is a painter based in Dallas who mostly works with acrylics. Several of her paintings have appeared in *ACM*.

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