

# NOEL YU-JEN

## the godspell according to Mary Magdalene (La Malinche, Marina, Malintzin, etc.)\*

<i>empire</i>		<i>self</i>	<i>empire</i>
		Sisters — it is impossible	impuesto, impossible guilt.
y (±; tierra) tu		to condemn them. How they love my mouth	mouth limp, a
	mamá? des-	this sick	sick piece of
cubre la misma		speaking self.	self-effacing leather. I create new
	so-	So let me orate this matrimony;	matrilineal boundaries:
le dad que la mía. Ay,		I am not worthy	worthy women who do not seek empire, just
	el	of empire.	
	oro	Or was it empire that was not worthy of me?	
no se queda		Remember: my mother sold me	
dor-		first she said	<i>sed</i> : a secret translating laughter into water. & I am
	ado ni se-	<i>say nothing</i> & instead	
creto			
	y el ai-	I was glorious, preaching illusive the spiel	perched on her throat, always spilling my makeshift
re me roba el al-		all unnecessary	
ma;		for the two halves of me,	meandering mess, a
	no puedo (quiero) re-	relishing the relic	relic of self.
	cordar. no quiero of-	of my feral face	
recer más bai-		hiding	
le ni oración ni pai-		my own	
saje ni cuerpo que digo		stuttering shadow.	
	claro, que no lo hay.	I will cut my tongue out of the portrait first, then follow	
		with maroon paint	

\* Malintzin (also known as Marina or La Malinche) was an Aztec woman who rose through the ranks of her enslavement under the Spanish conquest to ultimately become a translator & emissary between empires. She has since been reclaimed by Chicana feminists as the “mother of mestizos.” As the multitude of her given names suggest, she wielded much multiplicity in the languages she spoke, and the political stations she occupied.