

# Summertime City

by Roberto C. Garcia

Columbus Avenue, I'm the tense union of poor city rich city,  
gentrification. I'm slithering wealthy  
slumming, pissed off. Working class starving,  
eyeing leather toe sandals at the Craft Sale.  
Pricey ass crafts—pricey ass New York.

I'm not tourists, not one night onllys with Nikons or Minoltas,  
I am all these residents, these—  
denizens. We walk in each other's footsteps,  
over the pilgrim roads of sidewalks;  
over the merchant roads of sidewalks.

I—Stock Broker, Deli Meat slicer, student, bike messenger,  
I—sweaty itchy palmed pick pocket hovering, waiting  
for pedestrian closeness to create magic.  
Multitude of summer dresses, long & short,  
wind dresses, I'm the lover waved to, lover sought.

I'm the Brave women of the City in thongs or commando; I,  
walking a dog; I, in a sea of Ray Bans.  
I'm a door man rocking side to side in the shade, praying not to be  
laid off,  
watching Jersey plates going around in circles & no curbside  
parking. I'm the cop patronizing black kids by the Museum of  
Natural  
History.

I'm New York City summer, random acts of random, bus exhaust  
rough riding on coffee beans & pretzel scents,  
pizza slices, falafel, cherry flavored ices, peanuts.  
I'm all of it in the haze-hanging like a favorite song in  
radio static,

I'm sticky & wow—like June's first sweat.

