

Who am I? Estoy Me: A poem

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By: Desiree Tudder

Who am I? Estoy me

My skin is a light golden hue and my hair is long and dark,
I see others around with a snowy white complexion,
Others still have skin the color of dark chocolate.
Any given week I may hear English, Ebonics or Español.
The influences of others are all around me in art, music, cuisine and dress.

Folk art by Diego Rivera hangs above me,
The sweeping colors of Van Gogh keep watch in the next room.
Sushi dishes find a home in a cupboard next to squat cauldron like salsa bowls,
I see women in Saris sharing isles with men in blue jeans,
Los Aristogatos sits along side The Wizard of Oz and just above some anime,
Selena sits in the CD case with Bach, the Dixie Chicks and Chimaira.

My family has lived here for longer than any of us remember,
My ancestors were German, Cherokee and who knows what else?
My great-great-grandmother was a faith healer,
My great-grandmother was a farmer's wife,
My grandmother is a protector,
I am a student, a dreamer and an artist.

I am a synthesis of all that has come before me,
I am eager to embrace all things and all people,
It is this combination of people, culture and ideas that make me who I am.
I am a wife, a student, a teacher, and a friend.
I am because they were.