

Chip

In the late 1960's, there was a microchip
first tested on newborn babies in an effort
to create prototypes allergic to emotion

You were in the tenth generation of
beneficiaries so the scientists had the
formula figured quite well by then

When we met you were at the prime of
your intended level of performance and
my, did you have it down, or what?

I was informed, albeit two months in to our
dating, but I was informed nonetheless of your
wiring and before that, I had an inkling anyway

So your seemingly stoic malfunctions were
taken by me as silly little quirks intended for
an exercise in releasing from attachments

I told everyone not to worry and we went
on with our perfunctory business right until
the very uneventful barely bitter end

It was not at all sweet, perfectly sudden,
and I didn't even take it personally, since
machines often break down unexpectedly

And to think, all my friends thought
I didn't know the difference between
a man and a robot

Traci Kato-Kiriyama

Writer, actor, multi-disciplinary performing artist, arts educator and community organizer. Director of Tuesday Night Project, whose flagship "Tuesday Night Cafe" was recently recognized by the LA Weekly as "Best Free Downtown Performance Series" and is about to start its 16th year on April 1st. She has facilitated creative writing workshops and theatre collaborations throughout the country and was guest instructor of "Wellness & Expression in the Asian American Community" for the Claremont Colleges. She is currently working on East West Players' new touring show while trying incredibly hard to focus on finishing her second book of poetry, due for release in the Fall of 2014 by Writ Large Press.

