

# L.A. IS FULL OF PIGS

MATT SEDILLO

Los Angeles is falling apart  
In the streets  
In the suburbs  
In the wind  
In a barely kept  
Hollywood bathroom  
Wheezing  
Vomiting  
Coughing up blood  
The past few days  
These past few years  
I have spread myself  
Across this sprawl  
And now fear this drive  
May kill me  
Kill us all  
And I wander  
Over to general hospital  
Between whose walls  
Desperation  
Wears in high concentration  
Upon the faces of  
The shopworn  
And prematurely ill alike  
As they await upon news  
Of illness  
They cannot afford to have  
Survival without insurance  
This may take awhile  
Los Angeles is full  
Of untold misery  
A homeless man  
Sleeps next to me  
And I can smell  
The years of hard distance  
Between who he is now  
And who he may have been  
And all that stands between him  
And the bitter wind  
Is chance  
Is the kindness of a night nurse  
Who will let him sleep in peace  
Los Angeles  
Is full of good people  
Who from time to time  
Can turn a blind eye  
To killer policy  
And I wonder  
How many more bounced checks  
Free clinics  
Carry cash  
And leave the account  
In the negative  
Stand between me and him  
Me and the bitter wind  
And if so  
Where would I go?  
From Venice to San Francisco  
There is an outright war  
On the homeless  
A war  
On the dispossessed  
There are  
Fewer and fewer options  
They got  
Shelters  
For women and children

All inadequate  
But for me  
Just man up homeboy  
To that concrete pillow  
To that cardboard blanket  
And freeze your ass to death  
Yes, this city  
Will leave you to die  
On the same stretch  
Of sidewalk  
Where banks stretch  
Into the sky  
And I wonder  
As even now skid row  
Is being gentrified  
As this city  
As this system  
As the pigs  
Push people  
Past poverty  
Past hunger  
Past homelessness  
Towards the very edge of existence  
On Skid Row  
Where all the so-called complexities  
Of an economy  
Are laid bare  
Where the rich  
Are literally stacked upon the poor  
Los Angeles  
Is full of grotesque absurdity  
Especially  
On skid row  
Where they spend millions  
Annually  
Policing  
The misery  
Of people with  
Nowhere to go  
Because when your pockets are empty  
And you aint got nothing  
And change is just not coming  
There is no real difference  
Between a booming metropolis  
And a barren desert  
And the world of money  
Passes by you  
Passes through you  
As though you  
Were just a part of the scenery  
Protected in the knowledge  
That they are serviced  
By pigs  
Who speak the language of violence  
The language of the nightstick  
The language of untold misery  
That will beat you for begging  
Beat you for sleeping  
Beat you for breathing  
Beat you for doing  
Whatever the it is  
You need to do  
To survive the night  
In the bitter wind  
Los Angeles  
Is full of pigs

Matt Sedillo is a two time national slam poet, grand slam champion of the Damn Slam Los Angeles 2011 and the author of For What I Might Do Tomorrow published by Caza De Poesia 2010. His poetry has been published in Anthologies alongside the likes of such literary giants as Amiri Baraka, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Jack Hirschman and Luis Rodriguez. Sedillo has been a featured performer on KPFF 9.07 FM on 7 separate occasions on three separate shows, twice on Radio Free Atlanta 8.93 FM, and was featured in a story that appeared in the Los Angeles Times. Sedillo's poetry is currently a part of the curriculum in the course Illegal: Undocumented Latinos in the US taught by Dr. Robert LeRoux Hernandez at Holy Cross University. Sedillo has appeared as a guest performer and panelist at the following colleges and universities, Evergreen State College, LMU, Arizona State University, Pasadena Community College, Pitzer, Cal State San Bernardino, St. Edward's University, UCLA, Cal State Fullerton, Azusa Pacific University, Redlands University, Cal State San Bernardino, El Camino college, Compton College, Cal State Northridge, Southwest College and SOKA University. In addition to colleges and universities Matt has performed at the 40th and 41st Chicano Moratorium, on the main stage at an Occupy LA rally, at the 16th annual October 22d coalition against police brutality march and rally, the North Hollywood Music Festival, the Los Angeles International Film Festival, INKSLAM 2010 and 2011, Santa Ana's Noche del alteres 2010 (in front of an estimated 8,000) and 2011 and countless venues throughout the country. Born in El Sereno California in 1981, Sedillo writes from the vantage point of a second generation Chicano born in an era of diminishing opportunities and a crumbling economy. His writing a fearless, challenging and at times even confrontational blend of humor, history and political theory is a reflection of those realities. The poetry of Matt Sedillo is in turns a shot in the arm of pure revolutionary adrenaline and at others a sobering call for the fundamental restructuring of society in the interest of people not profits. Passionate, analytical, humorous and above all sincere, a revolutionary poet fortunate enough to be living in interesting times, the artistry of Matt Sedillo is a clarion call for all those who know a new world is not only possible but inevitable.

