

Room With Red Door

This is where I boil *Top Ramen* on a kitchenette's stove. This is where I sit reading Ritsos and his doxology: *praise the sun that cannot be burned*.

Nightfall, I pace the room: the television newscaster recites the daily famine and fads with the encouraging pitch of a Pilates coach. Hours later, I pull back the sheets, and I stretch out in bed.

This is the room with a red door, where every night I struggle, as my Mistress of Insomnia mounts me, pins my arms in between her thighs, then stitches my eyelids open, thread spooled from embers, needle chipped from ice.

Anthony Seidman

Anthony Seidman is the author of *Where Thirsts Intersect (The Bitter Oleander)* and *Combustions (March Street Press)* as well as several chapbooks, and the artist's book *The Motel Insomnia*, created with French artist, Jean-Claude Loubieres, and published by *AdeLeo Editions* of Paris, France. His poetry, essays, short fiction and translations of contemporary Latin American poetry have appeared in such journals as *Beyond Baroque*, *Nimrod*, *Pearl*, *Skidrow Penthouse*, *The Bitter Oleander*, *Borderlands*, etc., as well as in Mexico in *Luvina* (University of Guadalajara), *Crítica* (University of Puebla), *Parteaguas* (Aguascalientes) and *Newsweek en español*. A native of the San Fernando Valley, he lives with his son and daughter in North Hollywood, and works as a Spanish and French teacher at a private school in Pasadena.

