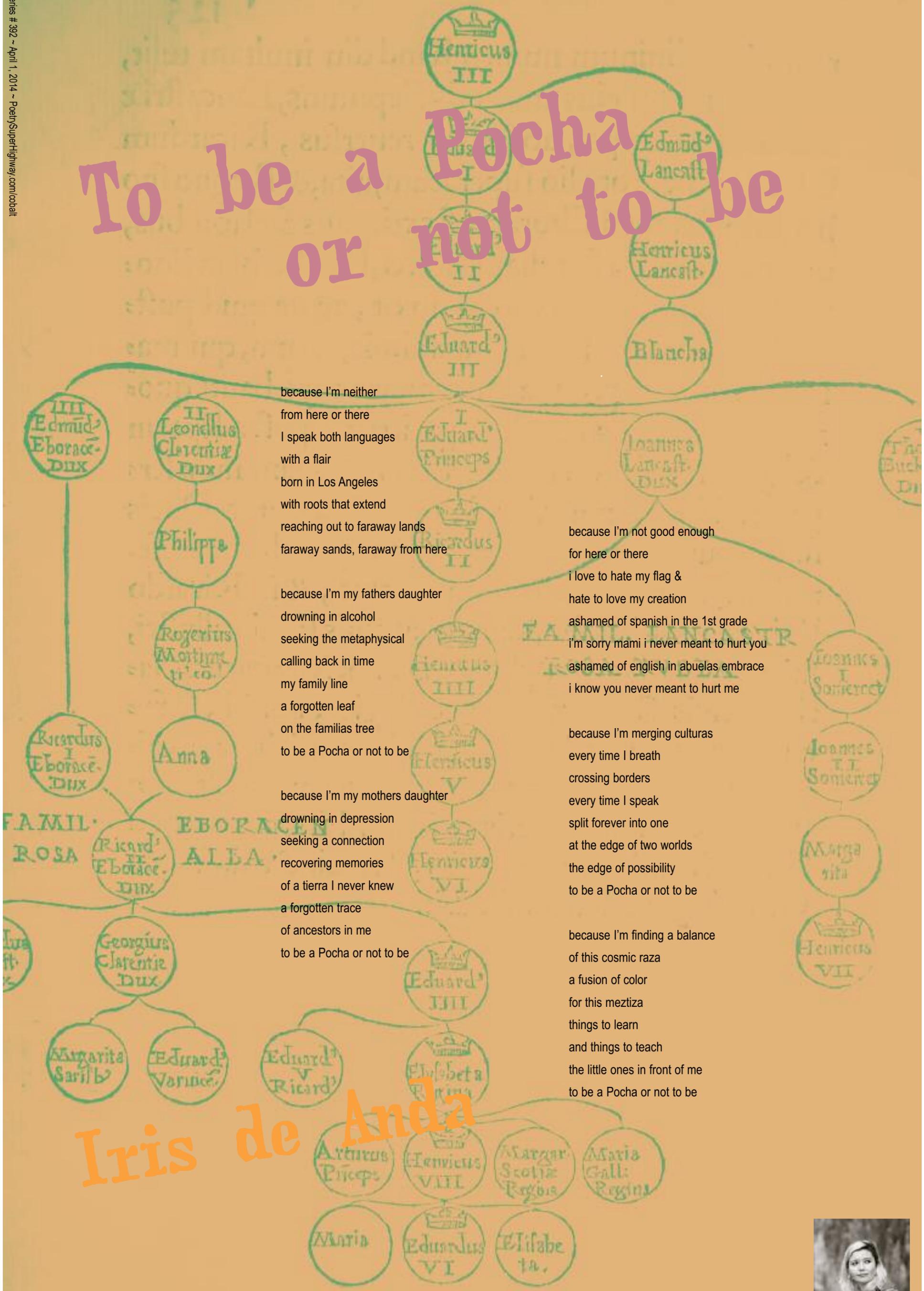


# REGVM GENEALOGIA.

To be a Pocha  
or not to be



because I'm neither  
from here or there  
I speak both languages  
with a flair  
born in Los Angeles  
with roots that extend  
reaching out to faraway lands  
faraway sands, faraway from here

because I'm my fathers daughter  
drowning in alcohol  
seeking the metaphysical  
calling back in time  
my family line  
a forgotten leaf  
on the familias tree  
to be a Pocha or not to be

because I'm my mothers daughter  
drowning in depression  
seeking a connection  
recovering memories  
of a tierra I never knew  
a forgotten trace  
of ancestors in me  
to be a Pocha or not to be

because I'm not good enough  
for here or there  
i love to hate my flag &  
hate to love my creation  
ashamed of spanish in the 1st grade  
i'm sorry mami i never meant to hurt you  
ashamed of english in abuelas embrace  
i know you never meant to hurt me

because I'm merging culturas  
every time I breath  
crossing borders  
every time I speak  
split forever into one  
at the edge of two worlds  
the edge of possibility  
to be a Pocha or not to be

because I'm finding a balance  
of this cosmic raza  
a fusion of color  
for this meztiza  
things to learn  
and things to teach  
the little ones in front of me  
to be a Pocha or not to be

Iris de Anda

Iris De Anda is a writer, activist, and practitioner of the healing arts. A womyn of color of Mexican and Salvadorean descent. A native of Los Angeles she believes in the power of spoken word, poetry, storytelling, and dreams. She has been published in Mujeres de Maiz Zine, Loudmouth Zine: Cal State LA, OCCUPY SF poems from the movement, Twenty: In Memoriam, Revolutionary Poets Brigade Los Angeles Anthology, Seeds of Resistance, In the Words of Women, and online at La Bloga. She is an active contributor to Poets Responding to SB 1070. She performs at community venues and events throughout the Los Angeles area & Southern California. She hosts The Writers Underground Open Mic at the Eastside Cafe every third Thursday of the month. Author of CODESWITCH: Fires From Mi Corazon. [www.irisdeanda.com](http://www.irisdeanda.com)

