

Tanyaradzwa Chitunhu

*On  
Praise  
&  
Protest*





## *(Extracts)*

### *The Beat*

*There's nothing like it.  
An African drum beat  
so hard  
it explodes in your chest,  
forcing your heart to relent,  
echo back.*

*Rhythmically pulsating  
coursing through your blood  
leaving music  
in your bones.  
A million miles away  
yet I can still feel it  
calling me home.*

*They say familiarity breeds contempt  
but there is none here  
when I hear it.*

*Conjuring sweet memories  
of dancing hard  
on cracked cement floors.  
No inhibitions.*

*Feet*

*stomping*

*Hips*

*swaying*

*Waist*

*twisting*

*Shoulders*

*shaking*



*Hands*

*clapping*

*Neck*

*popping*

*Head*

*snapping*

*Tongue*

*clicking*

*Ululating*

*Celebrating life  
with the language of the dance.*

*Worshipping,  
ushering,  
God in the room  
until we are consumed.*

*Released.*

*Freed*

*by an African drumbeat.*

*There's nothing like it.*



# *MoncksCorner*

*His 3-inch-thick spectacles break  
on the high school hallway floor  
in a confetti of glass.  
Lips swell,  
with a promise to leave  
and never look back.*

*Only to return,  
to relearn.  
Year after year,  
how to feel  
small.*

*A field of green  
sways in the  
hot Carolina breeze.  
The rooms are monuments.  
Ruins with memories  
wall painted  
the stench of sadness.*

*His tongue,  
wet of that sweet and sticky,  
chicken whistling,  
in delicious grease  
and a batter of love.  
The flavour of home.*

*Grandma Millie is singing  
with the angels  
and he always runs back  
burning,  
from big city lights  
with an ache  
they can never touch.*



# ***Spoken word Performances***

Please follow the links for two of my spoken word poetry performances:

**My Africa:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jS0iV080ZUY&t=4s>

**The 10 Commandments of eating well:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXPGps9OEH8&t=10s>



# *Collaborative Work*



(Tanya standing in picture)

The African time capsule created at the British Council's art residency, ColabNowNow. This was my collaborative project in holographic and spoken word form created to express and record what is happening on the continent and in the diaspora from a millennial's perspective.

In particular, the four spoken word poems look at issues of African identity and pride, African innovation, political activism and technology and finally migration and displacement.

For more information please follow the link:

<https://festival-mff.com/colabnownow/tanyaradzwa-chitunhu/>