

# Saliva of the Sun

*Clotted soil, dry and saturated,  
husks of unborn corn.*

*They wanted to bury us, but forgot that we are seeds.*

*Below the flaming zenith, where even shadows run for cover,  
it's a wonder how anything can breathe.*

*Yet clearly the cacti and the cattle thrive,  
sipping the mirage, drunk off a liquidized horizon.*

*So she nourishes her children,*

*Tatiekie, Sierra Madre.*

*As she carries herself, elegantly,  
with rugged curves,*

*in her gobernadora green skirts.*

*From her, Tau once climbed a ladder,  
emerged from the underworld,  
naked and weak.*

*Spat a line into the sea, and from that red foam,  
saliva of the sun,*

*the dawn and seam of everything.*

- Daniel Seferian Spies, Tatiekie, Mexico, 2017

The project *Saliva of the Sun* wishes to direct attention towards the Mexican pueblo the Wixarikas and their unique culture. The Wixarikas, also called the Huicholes, are among the very last native people in North America to have wholly upheld their indigenous culture and traditions.

The Wixarikas are most well known for their expressive arts and crafts, their ritual relation to peyote and their animistic spirituality. However, the Wixárikas continually suffers discrimination and violations, in a struggle for spiritual rights and cultural freedom which they have fought since before the Europeans arrival.

Today, the Wixarikas have been displaced to mountain regions, on the borders of various Mexican states, in barren lands with poor living conditions. Areas that now rapidly are being seized by international mining companies.

During his work with *Saliva of the Sun*, Daniel Seferian Spies visited the Wixarikas, where he partook in their daily chores, activities and rituals. Here, Spies was taught their special technique, which is to 'paint' on beeswax boards with colored yarn. An artform that the Wixarikas use to express their spiritual impressions and visions, and which Spies has used to interpret his own experiences and time with the Wixarikas.

The exhibition *Saliva of the Sun*, which took place in Copenhagen, was attended by Wixarika shaman Niuwe Osaya and his son, who's a traditional Wixarika musician, Eusebio. The two of them opened the exhibition with rituals and music and hosted traditional Wixarika ceremonies, in a forest near Copenhagen, during the following two nights.