

# MAMA SAPPHO

Poems con Sabor a Caló



Dr. T. Osa Hidalgo de la Riva  
Foreword by Angela Y. Davis

**MAMA SAPPHO:** *Poems con Sabor a Caló* is a collection of poetry written during the 1970s by a X'icanX' lesbiana Osa (Dr. T. Osa Hidalgo de la Riva), between her teen years and early twenties. Originally entitled *WITH POEMS as GUNS*, several of the poems in this collection were performed on tour with her lesbiana poet sister Liz, at some of the first battered women's shelters, women's cafés, and bookstores throughout Aztlán, the U.S. Southwest. In 1980, the *MAMA SAPPHO* manuscript came together as the author's creative thesis for one of the three master's degrees she would complete before receiving her Ph.D. in Cinema and Media Studies from the University of Southern California.



Published in book form 38 years later, the *MAMA SAPPHO* poems are joined by the author's *Poetic Afterword*, an essay that reads as fierce manifesto. A truly timeless—or, time-expansive—collection, *MAMA SAPPHO* could have read as contemporary poetry in any of the four decades it has traversed since taking its thesis form, and will surely read as such in its book form for the four decades to come.

In the stunning debut poetry collection *Mama Sappho: Poems con Sabor a Caló*, T. "Osa" Hidalgo de la Riva writes with empathic understanding and powerful metaphor of the disenfranchised and marginalized, the "Terminal Island sister / A Wounded Knee mama / And my Bellevue queen." She remains a poet gifted in scaffolding language at once founded on love, compassion, anger and a demand for social justice. Her poem "Betty Scott" will become a classic, but the collection itself will change you and you will "never walk the same." I only hope that we don't have to wait another gap in years for Osa's next collection.

**Helena María Viramontes**, author of *Their Dogs Came With Them*



Kórima Press

ISBN 9781945521041



90000 >



9 781945 521041