
Josefina Báez

Dominicania



Fig 1: Josefina Báez, screen still from *Dominicania*, 2012. Courtesy of the artist. Click on the image to watch the video.

Dominicania is a series of videos that accompany the text written by Josefina Báez and entitled *Levente no. Yolayorkdominicanyork* (New York: I Om Be Press, 2012).

I have been migrating since birth. In fact, migration first comes
visible exactly at birth.
As a matter of fact, nine months before my happy birthday to me,
to her, to him, to them,
to here, to there,
I was migrating too.
Migrating from a place with no time
and colorless passport;
to a place with no time and colorless passport.
And nine months and some days, I was seeing multiplying cells in
my mother's IMAX womb.
Birth day they call it. Day of birth.
That's a fact.
Optimum migrare. Sounds latin. Ah!
Migrant. Migrate. Migraine.
Migrant migraine
Migraine, my grains.
My grains in greener pastures.

Sounds familiar ah!
Migration rapidly wrapped all my existence.
I move from second to minutes to hours to days to weeks to
months to years and years and years. Migrating every day. Day to
night.
To too many places I have arrived.
From many places I have left.
Heaven, purgatory or earth.
All ask the same questions:
Where are you from?
When are you leaving?
Where are you going?
Like if a “place” would be the thing.
What about if I tell you that
I am that place –
where I am,
come from,
and will definitely leave*

* Josefina Báez, *Comrade, Bliss
Ain't Playing* (New York: Ay
Ombe Theatre / I om be Press,
2008), 78-80.