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## Something Like Santeria

Corey Mingura

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# Something Like Santeria

by Corey Mingura

*Santeria is a mixture of Nigerian voodoo practices and Roman Catholicism. The Nigerian deities were replaced by Saints. Santeria means "The way of the saints." This religion is very prominent in the Caribbean and Spanish-speaking countries, such as Mexico.*

On my altar,  
The smoke of a white  
Unscented Christ candle  
Fills the air.

Two golden bells that hang  
From the black cross on the wall  
Rattle as cars drive by.

A deer's antlers rest on their side  
Black and yellow, tinted gray,  
Sit proud and alone,  
For they do not need to adorn  
The head of a master.

The imitation human skull from Mexico  
Grins at me:  
He has no choice without his lips.

And above all, St. Jude, the serene king of the menagerie,  
Stands over this domain  
With haloed head and walking cane.

In my apartment,  
Every day is Dia de los Muertos.  
In my living room,  
In my place of sanctuary,  
It's something like Santeria.



*Photo (detail)  
by Jenny  
Mingus*

