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## *Hands*

Black hands  
Brown hands  
Yellow hands  
White hands  
Shadows of hands  
Colors of women's hands  
Speak of tales  
That words can't tell.

Red loving hands  
Orange peaceful hands  
Green nurturing hands  
Blue serene hands  
Indigo dignified hands  
Violet reflective hands  
Colors of the rainbow  
Promise a bright tomorrow.

Cold hands, warm hands  
Trembling hands, fists clenched  
Tired hands, playful hands  
Hurting hands, wounds healed  
Caloused hands, caring hands  
Life-enhancing hands  
Women's common language  
Hearts alone can tell.

Holding hands, nourishing hands  
Sorting hands, discreet hands  
Generous hands, enabling hands  
Lazy hands, relaxing hands  
Creative hands, dreaming hands  
Praying hands, soulful hands  
Weavers of human tapestry  
All women's hands.

*maria (socorro paulin) ballesteros*  
29 june 1999, los angeles, ca.

## *War is Over*

Tell me, Uncle Sam  
Why do you create wars  
Which cut bodies in Kosovo  
And make people kill each other  
Justified war for bread  
While your women and children  
Embraced by their fathers and brothers  
Scream their hearts and lungs out  
In roller coaster rides in Disneyland?

I just found out, here in America  
War is on the table  
Ultimate goal is to finish them all:  
Burgers, bacon, fries, chocolates,  
Shakes, pies, floats, freezies  
If one can't beat them, just throw them  
Garbage bins always full  
Cues in public comfort rooms  
Fat American rats clear the war.

Back in my village,  
Women and children  
Starve in their sleep  
War is on the table



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There's no food to eat  
People share their food  
No matter how small  
Women sacrifice  
So children won't die.

Kosovo in my mind  
Men's war is over  
Burgers, bacon, shakes...  
Peace reigns in the air  
Human bodies no longer starve  
There are no more cries  
Tell me, Uncle Sam  
Where're your guests?  
Ravens feast on human corpses  
Food has ceased to be the problem.

*maria (socorro paulin) ballesteros*  
28 june 1999, los angeles, ca.