




PAULINE HWANG

look at me.  
what do you see?  
a product of patriarchy  
of white male supremacy  
a model of modesty  
postmodernity globility

at times not enough feminine  
at times not enough feminist

the tightrope you've tied  
twists me up inside  
can't win you'll fall  
your sin, you'll crawl  
down to your place  
for your sex, your race




"ok you were born here, but where are you  
really from?"

you just can't win  
'cause 'we' let you in  
(or so we think)  
because you're just  
not quite  
enough white

"what does 'ching chong' mean?"

too many immigrants  
calls to strengthen the walls  
close the doors  
raise the floors  
we'll only take  
rich upper class educated professionals  
drain those exotic brains  
and yet still complain

"all asians here are so rich"



when we're "model minorities"  
(actually it's "majorities"  
if you counted all lives equal),  
our wins become sins,  
another group's loss:  
'they're lazy, they're criminals',  
psychologically worse  
genetically cursed


china's human rights crimes  
(but not canada's times)  
appear to the government  
just when convenient  
when canada's out  
bein' the world 'boy scout'

not when you're a refugee  
a women with your family  
"illegal immigrant"  
with a yellowish tint  
a 'tidal wave,' 'boatfuls'  
of opportunists, criminals,  
asian invasion  
messes the equation


'go home, send them back,  
border control is much too slack'

"you chinese are taking over the city"

oh but please  
she's not enough chinese  
not fluent, not 'see mun,' not cultured  
can't teach us-on command-at our conven-  
ience-all of china's (and the  
diaspora's) history, politics, languages,  
symbols, wines and dines



"what the heck are you?"



"a banana: yellow on the outside, white  
on the inside"

racism's the norm  
but a most hurtful form  
is inside the Left,  
it's a power theft  
that weakens us all,  
makes us fall  
drop the ball  
hit the wall

"where are the women of colour?"  
says the white activist crowd  
"i don't know why; everyone's allowed."

but if i were them, it'd all be solved-  
they just have to get involved."

[yeah 'cause we're sitting on our asses  
at home. or shopping.]

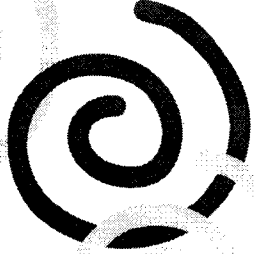
globalize liberalize  
buy transgenic cobs  
but don't steal our jobs

(and like the rest of those "develop-  
ing".)


capitalize privatize  
gather your women  
to work for cheap

anglicize westernize  
but don't look deep  
- you'll lose the 'post'  
in post-colonial

clean my house  
sew my clothes  
watch my kid  
blow my nose



we'll let you in this country  
ignore your doctor's degree  
here it's worth shit  
but we'll help you a bit



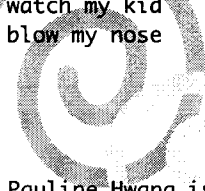
escape your homeland  
that's planned and canned  
to dust and sand  
with no futures  
no cures  
for the lures  
of the violent, powered side  
of that imperialist tide

"at least we're letting 'em into 'our'  
[stolen] land these days-  
so ungrateful!"

look at me  
what do you see?

a radical  
anti-racist  
feminist  
anti-capitalist  
diasporan  
chinese?

a product of patriarchy  
of white male supremacy  
a revolution machine  
'til justice reigns supreme



Pauline Hwang is 20-years-old and lives in Montreal. She is a member of the Shakti women  
of colour collective, Colours of Resistance Network ([www.tao.ca/~colours](http://www.tao.ca/~colours)), and FTTA-Alert.