**Suheir Hammad- Spoken Word Poet**

**Brief Bio:** Suheir Hammad, born in Jordan and raised in New York ("Suheir Hammad Biography" par. 1), is the eldest of five children. While growing up in New York, she was heavily influenced by her cultural, religious, and social surroundings (Khan).  Hip hop culture also had an effect on her writing and her performance (Palcast).  *The Quran* was also a huge part of Hammad's parents and grandparents life; she was taught that the Quran is poetry, and it is the holiest scripture in the Muslim religion (Rodriguez).

Hammad’s poems often focus on political topics. One of the main reasons she writes poetry is because it allows her to make a connection between her individuality and her culture. Unlike other Palestinian poets Hammad doesn't feel restrained to stand up in her poetry (Brown). She has also traveled the world with her poetry and has read it in different events (Famous Poems and Poets). Her poems are full of passion and rhythm ("Born Palestinian, Born Black") <https://sites.google.com/site/gallagheronpoetry/suheir-hammad>

**"Exotic" - Suheir Hammad**

Don't wanna be your exotic  
Like some delicate fragile colorful  
bird imprisoned caged in a  
land foreign to the stretch of her wings  
  
Don't wanna be your exotic  
women everywhere look just  
like me some taller darker  
nicer than me but like me  
Just the same women everywhere  
carry my nose on their faces  
my name on their spirits  
  
Don't seduce yourself with my  
otherness  
the beat of my lashes  
against each other ain't some  
dark desert beat it's just  
a blink get over it

Don't build around me  
your fetish fantasy your  
lustful profanity to  
cage me in clip my wings  
  
Don't wanna be your exotic  
your loving of my beauty ain't  
more than funky fornication  
plain pink perversion in  
fact nasty necrophilia  
because my beauty is dead  
to you

I am dead to you

Not your harem girl  
geisha doll banana picker  
pom pom girl poom poom short  
coffee maker town whore  
belly dancer private dancer  
la malinche venus hottentot  
laundry girl your immaculate  
vessel emasculating princess  
don't wanna be  
not your erotic not your exotic