
Pro Rege

Volume 26
Number 2 Arts Issue 1997

Article 19

December 1997

Glimpses of an Andean City

Lorna Van Gilst
Dordt College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Van Gilst, Lorna (1997) "Glimpses of an Andean City," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 26:
No. 2, 18 - 19.
Available at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege/vol26/iss2/19

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications at Digital Collections @ Dordt. It has been accepted for inclusion in Pro Rege by an authorized administrator of Digital Collections @ Dordt. For more information, please contact ingrid.mulder@dordt.edu.

Glimpses of an Andean City

Lorna Van Gilst

Long before the corner vendor
 lines up the morning headlines
or the fruit man
 hangs clumps of yellow-black bananas
 and mesh-bagged melons from his stall,
The sun slides over the mountain,
 nuzzles into her dark shoulders,
 dispels the mists slumbering there,
And kisses her crown with gold.

* * *

Midway through the siesta hour
The caballero directly across the way
 —white shirt unbuttoned to his hairy chest—
 hangs over his balcony
 strumming his cuatro,
 belts out thick rich baritones,
 serenading the neighborhood
 at midday—
The local Pavarotti.

* * *

In the last brilliance of the day
the walking stick man chugs up
the steps of Canyon Park
to meet his spotted cows
waiting in the weeds across the way.
He opens the gate,
holds up his stick
until the traffic light turns red,
then drops the wand to let his cows
leap nimbly between honking cars
to escape into the finer pastures
of the city park.

* * *

Mr. Cool comes out at night
to charm the girls in the parking lot,
his enormous boxers billowing
skirt-like around slim legs
from beneath the draping shirt.
He bends to kiss smooth blushy cheeks,
draws the whole cluster of females
unto himself,
settles back against the lamp post
to bask in incandescent glow—
Cool as the night.
Chévere they call him—Cool.