

Madeleine's Dreads · *Alexis DeVeaux*

Madeleine's dreads
are fertile like the lips
of good friends
intoxicate quick
like an expensive brandy

Madeleine's dreads
are weaved on a loom
of balsam flowers
are planted roots/ exposed
a forest in a fog
unfathomable

are full/ of peppermint oil
olive oil or
vaseline
when everything else
just plain runs out

Madeleine's dreads
are extensions of shake
shake
shekeres
are hand dipped
in mythology & double
dutch tournaments

When Madeleine plays the calabash
she carries OPEC in her hair
she carries the PLO in her hair
she carries the Peoples Republic of Nicaragua
in her hair
on her shoulders

Madeleine's dreads
are full of uprisings in Haiti
and Mississippi
and Brooklyn.