## Title: On the Politics of Being Too Much Author: Naomi Ortiz

bold bright

we take up space

expanding

between wheelchair rim and performance stage between furled wrist and plastic straw between red lips and medical forms

between silver hoop earring and boardroom doorframe between bloody tampon and leather bucket seat

between LED streetlamp and gritty dirt

our silhouettes dance guarded eyes laughing loud

yet, it's an illusion we're ever (really) seen except through movement and tone of voice

in a reality defined by "normal"

they are unable to discern our contributions from the subtle shift in wind

they feel (only) coolness blocking out the sun,

they see (only) the change in equation

their shifting future they are afraid almost always

you and me melting into squishy hurt feelings doesn't help

we live real to us dreaming creating molding a future

every sound, breath, heartbeat, an omen of purpose