

Living Nations, Living Words: A Map of First Peoples Poetry  
Poem commentary by Craig Santos Perez, 2020

Speaker: Craig Santos Perez

Date of recording: June 20, 2020

Location: 'Aiea, Hawai'i, poet's home

Length: 5 minutes, 12 seconds

START OF RECORDING

[Craig Santos Perez reads "Off-Island CHamorus"]

Craig Santos Perez: Thanks for listening to my poem. I wrote this several years ago, thinking about that memory: the first day at my new high school after migrating and being asked to point out my homeland on this large map. But because Guam and the Marianas are such tiny islands, it wasn't actually on the map. So that's why I'd make the joke about being from an invisible archipelago. And so much of my experience of being in the diaspora has been one of invisibility. But poetry, thankfully, has given me a space to make my story and culture and homelands more visible, and to really honor the experiences of those of us who have migrated away from home, who are still trying to cultivate a sense of belonging.

END OF RECORDING