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El Gato y la Luna/The Cat and the Moon

Eduardo Chirinos

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El Gato y la Luna

When two close kindred meet,  
What better than call a dance?  

– W. B. Yeats

El gato de mi vecina arquea su lomo  
como el arco de la luna.  

relame sus bigotes como gato  
y llora por un platito de leche.  

Mi vecina ve televisión  
(pero no llora)  
y se desliza furtivamente por la hierba  
inventando pasitos de baile.  

Micifuz o Minnaloushe  
me tenderá esta noche su mano  
y yo le diré (con los ojos cambiantes):  

“Oh lo siento, no me gusta bailar.”
The Cat and the Moon

*When two close kindred meet,*
*What better than call a dance?*

—W. B. Yeats

The neighbor lady’s cat arches its back like the arc of the moon.

The moon

licks her whiskers like a cat
and wails for a saucer of milk.

The neighbor lady watches TV (but doesn’t wail)
and creeps through the grass, inventing a new dance turn.

Cheshire Puss or Minnaloushe, the moon

will hold out her hand to me tonight and I’ll tell her (with changing eyes):

“I’m sorry, but I don’t like to dance.”

[Translated by G.J. Racz]