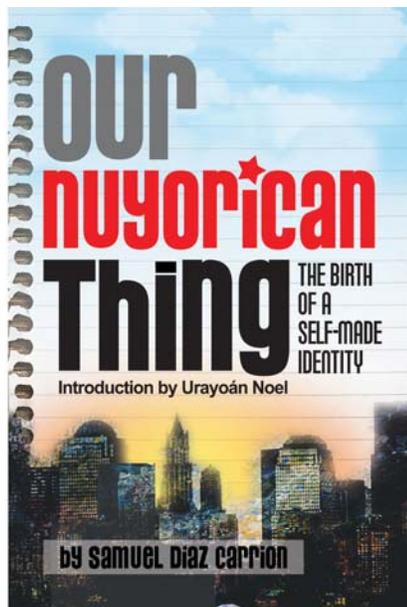


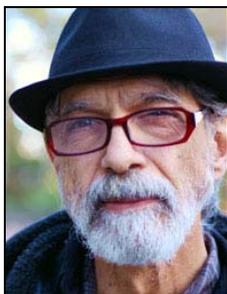
## Our Nuyorican Thing The Birth of a Self-Made Identity

by Samuel Diaz Carrion

NUYORICAN WORLD SERIES



COVER DESIGN: Clare Ultimo



Samuel Diaz Carrion  
PHOTO: Vagabond

April 2014 | 6" x 9"  
Trade Paperback | \$16.99  
ISBN-13: 978-1-940939-07-0 (pbk.)

Sep. 2014 | eBook | \$6.99  
ISBN-13: 978-1-940939-08-7 (epub)  
LCCN: 2013953972

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What is a "Nuyorican"? And what does it mean? Poet, writer and activist Samuel Diaz Carrion explores this question and more in OUR NUYORICAN THING, THE BIRTH OF A SELF-MADE IDENTITY. What started out as blog correspondence for the Nuyorican Poets Cafe's website (2001-2004), quickly turned into a cultural exchange about the Cafe and Puerto Rican culture. OUR NUYORICAN THING is a compendium of those blog entries and emails that also includes Diaz Carrion's poetry seen through the eyes of a "Puerto Rican Indiana Jones" who has quietly studied "the trade route of a new language . . . collecting poetry and stories as the artifacts of the day." This collection is riveting, informative and delightful, and will satisfy any reader with an appetite for cross-cultural discussions.

"If you ever wanted to know about the Nuyorican experience from a sociological viewpoint, then get *Our Nuyorican Thing* in your possession. This book will provide deep insight and first hand observations on the Nuyorican movement from the inside out."

— Bonafide Rojas, author of *Renovatio* and *When The City Sleeps*

"*Our Nuyorican Thing* by Sam Diaz is a must read about all things Nuyorican in essays that emerged from the heart of the Mother Matrix, the Nuyorican Poets Café . . . a poetic buffet for the universal creative spirit that is comprehensive, intelligent, insightful, sensitive and beautifully written ". . . in the service of poetry." Bravo!"

—Sandra María Esteves, poet, teacher and activist

"Sam Diaz, an original from the time the Nuyorican poets first walked as in Genesis, deconstructs and reconstructs all of those assumptions of identity and poetry that wonders identity. Take the plunge, you may find your own "Nuyoness."

— Keith Roach, poet, author, activist and former Nuyorican Poets Café SlamMaster

"Sam Diaz Carrion sets out to tackle the ever ephemeral nature of the human being. His words and stream of consciousness are an embodiment of humanity's nature; an ever fickle, vacillating, equivocal species. In these pages, he takes his readers through the labyrinth that is the human."

—Nancy Mercado, Ph.D., writer, poet and editor

### About the Author

SAMUEL DIAZ CARRION is a Puerto Rican poet and writer born in the South Bronx. While working as a chemist, he participated in meetings that led to the founding of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, New Rican Village and other venues. Over the years, he has coordinated poetry and reading series, and managed theatrical events for Pedro Pietri and the Nuyorican Poets Cafe. Diaz also served as a coordinator for the Puerto Rican-based Bienal de la Poesía Puertorriqueña and subsequent events for La Muestra de la Bienal. He currently heads Computer and Administrative Office Services (BxCAOS), which assists small businesses and nonprofits in the arts and housing. OUR NUYORICAN THING is his first book.

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