

*Joanne C. Hillhouse*

## THE ARRIVAL

*(for Gisele)*



The thing she loved most about coming home  
was putting down the weight of inferiority  
otherness  
the stain that was her blackness

As home jumped up to greet her  
like a child into daddy's arms  
she took off the thick coat of winter  
and felt the Atlantic breeze greet her skin  
as it should  
and felt the sun boldly offer kisses  
that tingled  
As Bob Marley's  
"coming in-a...  
"coming in-a...  
"coming in-a..."  
kept time with her heartbeat  
and the colours made a joke of everything she'd gazed on  
in that land of her exile

It was mango season  
and she longed to tear at it's flesh with her teeth  
and suck its juices with her lips and tongue  
feel free  
and whole  
Be  
Belong  
her toes buried in pink sand  
as she drank in the Blue

in which she'd washed the stain  
of the shame that did not belong in this place  
she simply called  
home.

# Calabash

A JOURNAL OF CARIBBEAN ARTS AND LETTERS

Volume 4, Number 2 / Spring-Summer 2007

## Information about this work:

---

*THE ARRIVAL*

**By:** Joanne C. Hillhouse

**Start Page:** 65

**URL:** <http://www.nyu.edu/calabash/vol4no2/0402065.pdf>

---

*Calabash: A Journal of Caribbean Arts and Letters* is an international literary journal dedicated to publishing works encompassing, but not limited to, the Anglophone, Francophone, Hispanophone and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. The Journal is especially dedicated to presenting the arts and letters of those communities that have long been under-represented within the creative discourse of the region, among them: Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, Maroon societies, and the Asian and Amerindian societies of the region. Calabash has a strong visual arts component.

*Calabash* is published by New York University. Please contact the publisher for further permissions regarding the use of this work. Publisher information may be obtained at: <http://www.nyu.edu/calabash/about.html>

*Calabash: A Journal of Caribbean Arts and Letters*  
© 2007 New York University