

Calabash

A JOURNAL OF CARIBBEAN ARTS AND LETTERS

Volume 2, Number 2: Summer/Fall 2003

Information about this work:

On Being Long-winded

By: SASSY ROSS

Start Page: 74

URL: <http://library.nyu.edu/calabash/vol2iss2/0202074.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://library.nyu.edu/calabash/about.html>

Calabash: A Journal of Caribbean Arts and Letters

© 2003 New York University

Sassy Ross

On Being Long-Winded

• • •

yes, i am aware
that sometimes
i talk too much

that i have a ten
dency to take off
on tangents

forget the reason
the instant i remember
to get back to the point

and i know that
sometimes
what i have to say
can be said
within fewer words

"i'm happy."
instead of:

"today, my soul soared
like a red plastic bag
kite let go."

"fuck off." for example
as opposed to:

"look, mista, i got
a loaded pistol
zipped up in my chest
if you make another move
i gwine blow off yo balls."

"yes, that was nice. let's do it again"

so as to mean:

"when our stomachs
touched in the shower
we were taken in without recoil
submitting to the moment
without distinguishing the dancing
from the dancers from the dance."