

UCLA

Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies

Title

Laughing Between

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7714s8wh>

Journal

Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies, 19(2-3)

ISSN

0041-5715

Author

Ahmed, Christine Choi

Publication Date

1991

DOI

10.5070/F7192-3016797

Copyright Information

Copyright 1991 by the author(s). All rights reserved unless otherwise indicated. Contact the author(s) for any necessary permissions. Learn more at <https://escholarship.org/terms>

Peer reviewed

POETRY

LAUGHING BETWEEN

the lines, the words, the descriptions.
Laughing between the frames of
starving children and tear gas and
kill the Arabs. Laughing in the little
crack where silence resides just a
beat before the mechanical sounds
of Moluck start up again. Laughing as
the lungs exhale, between the breath
and four million Somalis vanishing
quietly. Laughing between the smog
and scents of frustration burning.
Laughing at nasty sounds little
boys make to get your attention.
Laughing so you don't pull the string,
the one that makes it all unravel.
Laughing so the sound of your voice
drowns out the words. Laughing so you
are back in history where horror
only existed for your neighbor or
relative and maybe it took three
months by ship before you knew.
Laughing so that you can fit
in the space between loss
and dreams. And rest. Because you
know what you must do is not funny.

Christine Choi Ahmed
5/30/92