A cincuenta años del movimiento estudiantil
México 2018

"1, we remember; 9, we learn; 6, we flourish; 8. Fifty years after the student movement, Mexico, 2018."
Illustration by Leonel Sagahon.

MEMORY, 2018

by Mercedes Alvarado

"Poetry is found in struggle."
Leopoldo Ayala
"The poet's real commitment is to put the word
back at the service of the people."
Juan Carlos Mestre

The country I am
lives in all geographies
on the lips of those who speak other languages
—second, third, fourth languages—
to name the direction they came from;

the country I am
we are
son of corn
sentinel of its legacy
a country that walks
a country that is carried on the back
a country that crosses the river
a country that dares
a country that shouts
a country that knows how to be silent
a country that does not know how to give up;

the country I am
continues to search
for all its children
brothers
sisters
fathers
mothers
friends
colleagues
that have been
thrown into a grave

that have been found in a grave

those of us who don't know when
we will be
one more in just another grave;

the country I am
that we are
is the vocation of a smile
with its music
with its word play
with its seizing the good
with its forgetting the bad

the song that weeps for itself
the promise that laughs at itself
the pile of words
and the turbulent time that is
"right away;"

the country I am
the one that will go out
again
again
again
into the streets
to say
I, from the middle class
I, the bourgeois
I, the proletarian
I, the emigrant
I, who return
I, who have left
I,
I, Mexican
I:
I decide.