What does it mean to write poetry when you can be criminalized, incarcerated and deported at any moment? This is the reality for many undocumented, refugee, asylee, and migrant creators. This art talk centers Alan Pelaez Lopez’s relationship to poetry as a place of refuge in which to process state-violence, but also a place of contestation because if the artist says too much, their family and friends can also become targets of the state. Ethical cultural production will be at the heart of this art talk as a way to de-center productivity, a measure that is by default anti-Black and anti-migrant.