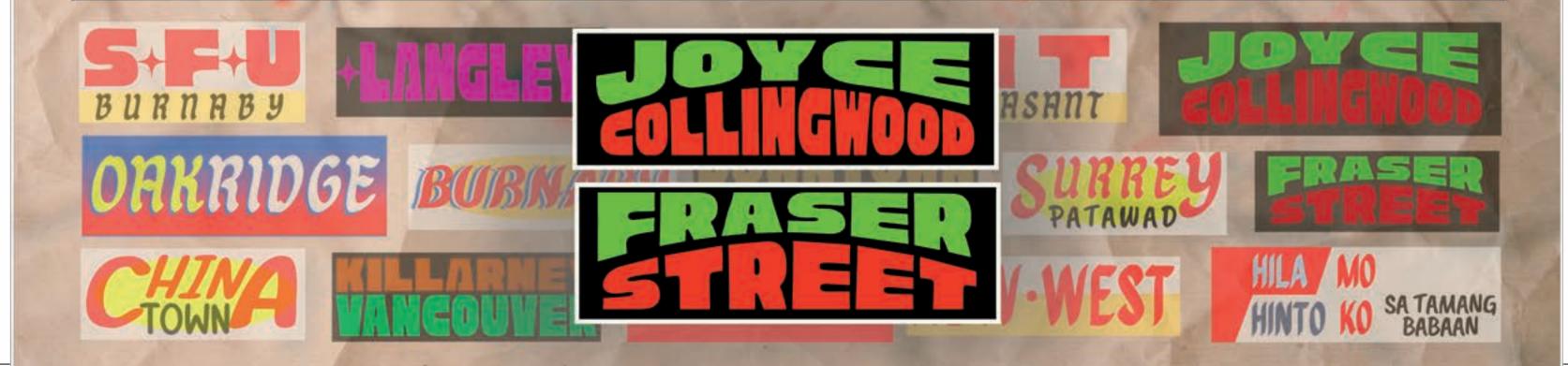




Pampangas. I took my friends there, all varying relations to being Filipino (immigrant from Manila, 1st generation Canadians, half-Filipino, not filipino at all) and this restaurant just has a way in easing all the cultural posturing I usually put on in other spaces here in Vancouver (I'm looking at you, third-wave coffee shops) and I can just enjoy meals, gossip, and talk freely about how the food in so intertwined with my upbringing. I also grew up on Fraser Street, so it's so fun to see old titas and titos I used to see when I was a kid.







I have Filipino friends at uni, but I never felt connected to my university's Filipino association. It felt more clique-ish and it's hard to make connections with the people in it because they had already made their connections and friends.









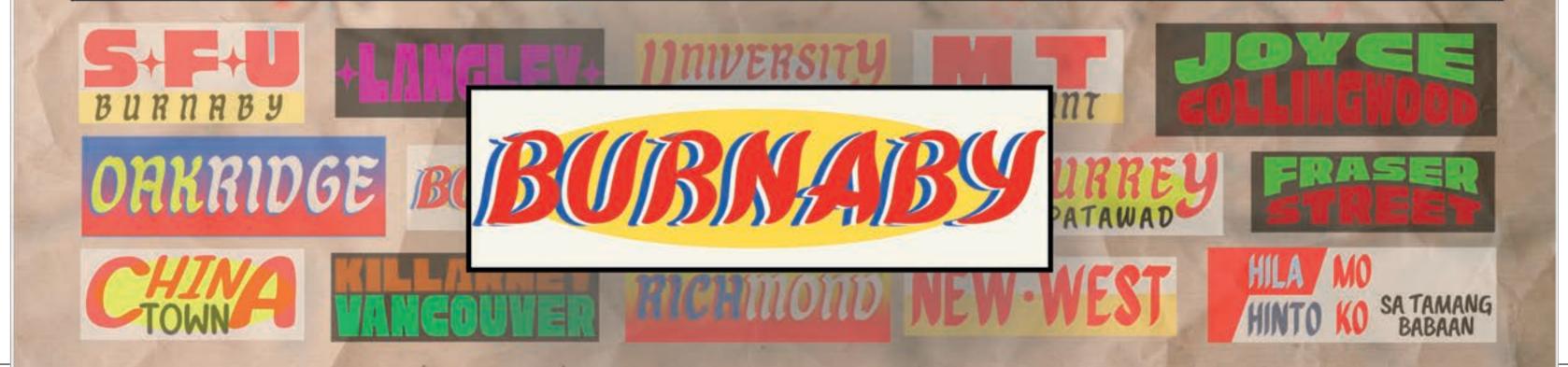
May isang tindahan sa Richmond at ang pangalan ay "Tindahan" (haha). Pinuntahan ko to noong naghahanap ako ng mabibiling Ilanera para sa leche flan. Noong pumasok ako, nagulat ako sa amoy ng pagkain at tunog ng tugtog dahil parang ihinagis ako ng tindahan papunta sa aking mga naalala sa aking Inang Bayan. Sa lahat ng mahahanap kong pang-uri tungkol sa Tindahan ay hindi maiilarawan sa aking naging pagnanais na bumalik sa Pilipinas.







I felt most connected to my heritage whenever I went over to my Tita's apartment for special occasions. It is one of those small apartments behind Metrotown and there would be 20 of us in there at a time. Growing up, the birthdays and Christmas's were always so loud with so much yelling and laughter and gossiping, and by the end of the night we would be packing our baons.







Of the 7 years I have lived here, the most connected I have felt was at an event at Massey Gallery that celebrated the diversity of Filipino languages called Halina! Kadto kamo! Sung na!







I weirdly feel the least connected to my heritage at major Filipino restaurants like Max's. My parents speak different dialects of Bisaya, and speak a mix of three languages at home. In primarily Tagalog speaking spaces, I never feel like I fit in.

