

## *cerca y lejos, perto e longe, near & far*

January 2021 Online Residency  
Stetson University, MFA of the Americas

### FRIDAY, January 1, 2021

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**4pm**            **Welcome Event** [Find links to join this and all events on Blackboard >> Organizations >>MFA of the Americas]

**6-8pm**            **Craft talks and performances by graduating students**  
Josh Geary (6-6:45pm)  
Patricia Bindert (7-7:45pm)

### SATURDAY, January 2, 2021

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**Morning**            Schedule one-to-one meetings with your faculty mentor.

**4-7pm**            **Craft talks and performances by graduating students**  
Ryan Rivas (4-4:45pm)  
Kyo Nicole Padgett (5-5:45pm)  
Steven Dunn (6-6:45pm)

### SUNDAY, January 3, 2021

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**Sometime**            Workshops begin: check schedule with faculty

#### **During the day, engage Artist Talk #1**

##### **Materiality, Character, and the Personal Archive**

Sarah Gerard

In this studio visit, we'll explore the creative possibilities of research and reporting for fiction and nonfiction, and the importance of the personal archive. I'll introduce you to two of my current projects, including a murder mystery about train hopping, called *Aquarius*, and will lead you on a tour of my archives, and my project database for the novel-in-progress. I'll show you how I conduct some of my research about train hopping, and share my interview strategies, and my approach to reporting for a story. I'll lead you through my revision process, and show you how I've constructed *Aquarius's* protagonist from archival resources, and how I've used tangible materials to build character and setting. We'll then look at examples of other authors' use of personal objects, archives, police evidence, and primary documents to build character, setting, and story.

**8-9pm**            Salon Q&A with featured Faculty Member, Sarah Gerard

## MONDAY, January 4, 2021

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**Sometime**      Workshop: check schedule with faculty

**During the day, engage Artist Talk #2 (note that the salon that follows is earlier on this day):**

### **Creative Nonfiction and the Larger World: Expanding the Personal Narrative**

Jaquira Díaz

In this Creative Nonfiction discussion, we will examine how memoir or personal essays can speak to something larger, more expansive. How does a news story become a vehicle for a personal story? How are personal stories connected to the larger world? How can personal narrative engage with music and history and place and culture? I will discuss my memoir, *Ordinary Girls*, and how to write essays and memoir that straddle different genres, incorporating music, culture, history, science, current events, and journalism.

**5-6pm**              Salon Q&A with featured Guest Artist Jaquira Díaz

## TUESDAY, January 5, 2021

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(no workshop)

**During the day, engage Artist Talk #3**

### **In Other Words: Translation as Language Turning**

Mónica de la Torre

What if instead of understanding translation as the carrying of meaning across languages, as if there were a barrier between them and a thing such as meaning had an existence separate from language, we understood the process as one entailing language turning? The word version, coming from the Middle French via Latin, was once synonymous with “a turning, a translation” and had its origin in the Latin *vertere*, “to turn, turn back, be turned; convert, transform, translate; be changed.” Thinking about translation in these expansive terms shifts the focus away from the dutiful execution of a task, which can never be performed definitively anyway, to the manifold possibilities that converting one thing into another (or many others) opens up creatively when we mind language’s physical properties. In this talk I will discuss translation as transcreation, as Haroldo de Campos puts it, and will present a range of ways in which translation might serve as a generative device for the creation of individual and collaborative poems and as a tool to produce work across media. I will talk about my own work in *Repetition Nineteen* and also about recent and historical examples, from Pound’s *Cathay* to Louis Zukofsky to Langston Hughes’s translations of Nicolás Guillén’s Afro-Cuban poetry, and from Jack Spicer’s *After Lorca* to concrete poetry and Anne Carson’s translations from the Classics.

- 2-3pm** Virtual lunch with the Director. Join Teresa Carmody for a cross-cohort, cross-genre meet & greet. New students are especially encouraged to attend; all are welcome!
- 8-9pm** Salon Q&A with featured Guest Artist Mónica de la Torre

## WEDNESDAY, January 6, 2021

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**Sometime** Workshop: check schedule with faculty

**During the day, engage Artist Talk #4:**

**Haunted Geographies: As above, so below.**

Usman Malik

For hundreds of years, in visual arts and literature, setting and character have played off each other in service of the story. From Shirley Jackson's *The Haunting of Hill House* to Daphne Du Maurier's *Rebecca*, external hauntings tend to erupt into interior landscapes of characters, or vice versa. This journey from the heimlich to the unheimlich (in Freudian terms) is the becoming manifest of what was once secret, the defamiliarization of what was once thought known and familiar. In this 30-minute talk we will delve into these concepts and discuss how this convergence of the physical and the psychic can create compelling psychologically rich narratives and worlds.

**8-9pm** Salon Q&A with featured Guest Artist Usman Malik

## THURSDAY, January 7, 2021

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**Sometime** Workshop: check schedule with faculty

**During the day, engage Artist Talk #5:**

**Cloud Poetics: Migrating Avatars and Archives**

Vidhu Aggarwal

In *The Prehistory of the Cloud*, Tung-Hui Hui describes how the cloud became an early metaphor for the internet, a networked system where the borders are nebulous. In this talk, I will discuss my work as a type of “cloud” poetics, combining multiple cultural archives and forms of media (video games, ancient texts, graphic art). How does the cloud figure as an avatar of lyric mobility, digital storage, and diasporic experience?

**8-9pm** Salon Q&A with featured Guest Artist Vidhu Aggarwal

## FRIDAY, January 8, 2021

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(no workshop)

**During the day**, engage Artist Talk #6:

**SO, AN ILLUSTRATOR WALKS INTO A BAR**

Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz

SO, AN ILLUSTRATOR WALKS INTO A BAR: STORY TELLING, ILLUSTRATIONS, PERFORMANCE ART, SCULPTURE, YOUTUBE SOAP OPERAS, AND THE UNUSUAL PATH TO ACADEMIA

**4-5:30pm**      **Making it Public: Publishing and Literary Community**

This panel and Q&A features Mimi Wong of *The Offing*, Marisa Siegel of *The Rumpus*, and Nicole Oquendo of *Sundress Publications*. The editors will discuss topics such as preparing one's work for submission, strategies for submitting, what editors want and don't want, as well as ways to engage in and give back to the literary community.

**8-9pm**              Salon Q&A with featured Guest Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz

## SATURDAY, January 9, 2021

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**Sometime**          Workshop: check schedule with faculty

**4-4:45 pm**          Burrow Press Info Session with MFA Publishing Coordinator Ryan Rivas

**8-9pm**              **Your Most Pressing Questions: Faculty Panel-Performance**

MFAotA faculty respond to student questions gathered before the residency. Responses may be more or less performative, more or less direct.

## SUNDAY, January 10, 2021

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**Sometime**          Time to get ready for tonight's virtual performance. All students present for three minutes, maximum.

**3-4:30pm**          Library Resources Workshop with Hunter Murphy

**8-9pm**              **#MFAotA Student Performance and Dance Party!**

## MONDAY, January 11, 2021

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**Sometime** Goodbyes and take-out