

Material Material Material

January 2022 Residency at the Atlantic Center for the Arts
Stetson University, MFA of the Americas

SATURDAY, January 1, 2022

NOTE: all times listed in Eastern Standard Time (EST); aside from small-group workshops, all performances and guest events begin at the Joan James Harris Theater.

- 1-5pm** Arrival and Check in at the Atlantic Center for the Arts (ACA) based on COVID test sign-up time.
- 5:45pm** Tour of campus with ACA director
- 6:30pm** Welcome Dinner / All Students & Faculty
- 8pm** **Reading: Urayoán Noel and Ryan Rivas**

SUNDAY, January 2, 2022

- Morning* Basket breakfast in rooms
- Morning* Individual Student Conferences
- 12:30pm** Lunch
- 2-3pm** **Faculty Panel: BEGINNING MATERIALS**
Jennine Capó Crucet, Teresa Carmody, and Cyriaco Lopes. Moderator: Terri Witek
- Do you “find” your material? Or does your material “find” you? Or to put this another way (perhaps): how do you begin? And begin again? Faculty will discuss one or more of these questions (and/or may well spin these questions into more questions) during this opening panel.
- 6:30pm** Dinner
- 8-9pm** **Reading: Terri Witek & Cyriaco Lopes, Rachel Cleveland, and Shelby Smotherman**

MONDAY, January 3, 2022

- Morning* Basket breakfast in rooms

9:45-12:15pm Workshop

12:15-1:30pm Pop-up Bookshop: Books by *guest, faculty, and Burrow Press available!!*

12:30pm Lunch

4-6pm **Artist workshop: Edwin Torres**
WHAT MAKES MAKING INTO POETIC INTERRUPTION

This will be a talk/workshop centered around the materiality of language as a means to invent realms. The writer does not so much read their own words, as live them — scattered across time, across open-less energies assembled by language in pursuit of a body. The poet's task, to bring the deepest levels of reality out of the unsayable. This session will combine a talk presentation with movement writing exercises to explore the instruments we use to encode the sensory with interruption. The making of histories begins with an alphabet, the core of our human material is waiting to be deciphered. We'll discuss and experience the nature of interruption as a creative process.

6:30pm Dinner

8-9pm **Reading: Edwin Torres**

TUESDAY, January 4, 2022

Morning Basket breakfast in rooms

9:45-12:15pm Workshop

12:30pm Lunch

2-4pm **Translation workshop: Raquel Salas Rivera**
UNA POÉTICA DE LA CHANGERÍA / A POETICS OF CHANGERÍA

Pleasure, attention, subversion, disidentification, resistance, lateral engagement, all these are both political strategies and poetic norms. Defining the Puerto Rican notion of "changería" as a starting off point for a poetics that establishes terms of legibility rooted in capriciousness and an accepted form of loud neediness associated with performative refusal and engagement, I will discuss the work of Puerto Rican poets who have written homages to being chango, when clarity and reason are still aesthetic norms that govern the standard for literariness on the archipelago.

6:30pm Dinner

8-9pm **Reading: Raquel Salas Rivera**

WEDNESDAY, January 5, 2022

Morning Basket breakfast in rooms

10:15-12:15pm Book Arts Workshop with Stephanie Sauer

ONCE UPON A STARBURST: BOOK ARTS AS GENERATIVE WRITING PRACTICE

Let's craft a story that bursts off the page, a page that takes on the shape of a poem, or a book that changes the architecture of your essay. Join us to explore how book arts can transform your writing practice. In this workshop, you'll learn to fold, bend, and bind like a magician, and come away with a book that looks and feels like it was built by the cosmos.

12:30pm Lunch

4-6pm

Artist seminar: Chesya Burke

HORROR, HUMOR, AND SATIRE: HOW *GET OUT* AND OTHER BLACK HORROR USES HUMOR TO CRITIQUE RACIAL INJUSTICE

In the same vein as one of the most famous satirical essays ever written, *A Modest Proposal*, the 2017 horror hit *Get Out* by Jordan Peele, uses satire to highlight the hypocrisy of white, middle-class moderates. The film follows Chris, a Black man, visiting his white girlfriend's family, who totally "by the way, would have voted for Obama for a third term if [they] could have." Chris eventually learns that his girlfriend has set him up to be bodily enslaved to her white community. The film is a satirical allegory on the ways white progressives use microaggression to deny and reinforce racism, causing physical harm to Black bodies. While horror often blends the horrific with satire to ease the tensions of fear, in this seminar we will discuss how Jordan Peele uses horror and humor as Swift does: to expose the violence perpetrated by the ruling class. In Swift's time, this meant challenging classism and British imperialism, and in Peele's it means challenging white supremacy and terror against Black bodies. Using a mash-up of intertextual references of traditional horror texts, such as *The Shining* (1980), *The Stepford Wives* (1972), and *Night of the Living Dead* (1968), we will look at the way *Get Out* mixes horror and satire to critique racial relations within the US.

6:30pm Dinner

8-9pm Reading: Chesya Burke

THURSDAY, January 6, 2022

Morning Basket breakfast in rooms

9:45-12:15pm Workshop

- 12:30pm** Lunch
- 2:30-5:30pm** **Historic Field Trip: Andy Eisen**
ABOLITIONIST PASTS/ABOLITIONIST FUTURES: FREEDOM DREAMS AMID RACIAL TERROR

Participants will visit the Cruger-dePeyster plantation, a forced labor camp burned down by Seminoles, Black Seminoles, and enslaved persons in 1835. Located just 6 miles from the Atlantic Center for the Arts, the “Cruger-dePeyster Sugar Mill Ruins” represents a testament to resistance as indigenous and Black victims of U.S. settler colonialism risked everything for their freedom dreams. The tour is informed by research conducted by incarcerated researchers who have studied histories of slavery and Indian removal in East Florida for the past three years.

- 6:30pm** Dinner
- 8-9pm** **Reading: LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs and Jennine Capó Cruet**

FRIDAY, January 7, 2022

Morning Basket breakfast in rooms

9:45-12:15pm Workshop

12:30pm Lunch

2-3pm **Making It Public Panel**
MATERIALIZING LITERARY COMMUNITY IN PHYSICAL & VIRTUAL SPACES: featuring Jared Silvia & Racquel Henry

When people gather around books and literature, community materializes. This panel features two guests who’ve worked directly with our Coordinator of MFA Publishing to create literary community in Central Florida through a wide range of physical (and recently virtual) events. They will discuss the importance of community-building, as well as the nuts and bolts of event-making, providing both the inspiration and tools for you to make your own literary event.

5-6pm **Faculty Panel: MATERIAL IN THE EXPANDED FIELD**
with LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs, Terri Witek, Veronica Gonzalez Peña, and Urayoán Noel.
Moderator: Cyriaco Lopes

Working in the expanded field brings more material options and aesthetic choices. After all, the artist/writer is working with text *and* film, video, event, print, image, performance, sound, etc. So how do you decide what form, or material, a particular piece will take? Too, how has working in the expanded field shifted your relationship to your “home” or “first” medium, whether that is poetry, prose, or visual art?

6:30pm Dinner

8-9pm Reading: **Teresa Carmody, Veronica Gonzalez Peña, and Stephanie Sauer**

SATURDAY, January 8, 2022

Morning Basket breakfast in rooms

9:45-12:15pm **Optional Tech Workshop with Shelby Smotherman**

Learn from the best. MFAotA's very own Tech Goddess will provide tips, tricks and best practices to broaden your toolbox while working/performing off the page.

12:15-1:30pm Pop-up Bookshop: Books by *guest, faculty, and Burrow Press available!!*

12:30pm Lunch

4-6pm **Artist workshop: Lucy Corin**
YOUR MATERIAL

"...(I am, as always in writing, at once the scientist and the rat he disembowls for research)." Hervé Guibert, from *Crazy for Vincent*

The one craft essay I have ever written is called "Material," and I wrote it over a decade ago, not long before I started work on the novel I'll read from later, *The Swank Hotel*. In this session, I'll share some of the "material" elements of my process of writing my novel. Then we'll do a series of exercises that 1. engage material as a physical thing, words on the page, and that 2. engage material as content, the material that is your stories. As suggested by Mr. Guibert, this is 1) yourself, 2) your imagination (which is yourself), and, as emphasized by the omission of the "my" that might have appeared before "writing" as well as, I think, the parentheses, which emphasize the encompassing and telescoping aspects of the idea, 3) *words*, which bring the world.

6:30pm Dinner

8-9pm Reading: **Lucy Corin**

SUNDAY, January 9, 2022

Morning Basket breakfast in rooms

9:45-12:15pm Workshop

12:30pm Lunch

Sometime (Afternoon) **Engage with craft talk and materials online: Johnny Damm**
THE POETRY OF COMICS / THE COMICS OF POETRY

Despite the popularity of the terms “Graphic Narrative” and “Graphic Novel,” there have always been non-narrative comics—works more similar to lyric poetry than to traditional storytelling. For this workshop, we’ll examine the comic strip through the lens of poetry, and then examine poetry through the lens of the comic strip. Along the way, we’ll explore techniques of visual rhythm, the comics panel as line or stanza, the alchemy of empty spaces, and what the “cartoon” can teach us about abstraction.

6:30pm Dinner

8-9pm ***Virtual* Reading: Johnny Damm:** join via the Zoom link in Canvas

MONDAY, January 10, 2022

Morning Basket breakfast in rooms

12:30pm Lunch

3:30pm **Optional: Stetson Library Resources & Research for Writers Workshop with Hunter Murphy**

This session will feature the various library resources and services available to you as graduate students in general and MFA candidates specifically. We’ll explore movies, music, books, and unique resources to enrich your MFA experience. *This session’s interactive element will include a focus on your current creative projects. Bring your topic or area of interest and we will explore how the library can support you.* We will find sources for your Encounters’ List and discuss ways to manage and improve your bibliographies.

6:30pm Goodbye Dinner / All Students & Faculty

8-9pm **#MFAotA Student Presentations**

TUESDAY, January 11, 2022

8:30-9:30am Breakfast

by noon Goodbyes and check out