

constelações

constelaciones

constellations

June 2021 Online Residency
Stetson University, MFA of the Americas

FRIDAY, June 4, 2021

NOTE: all times listed in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

4pm **Welcome Event** [Find links to join this and all events on Canvas >> Courses >> June 2021 Residency]

6-9pm **Craft talks and performances by graduating students**
Susan Brogan (6-6:45pm)
Sammie Morris (7-7:45pm)
Mal Trimarchi (8-8:45pm)

SATURDAY, June 5, 2021

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

During the day, engage Faculty Artist Talks #1a and #2a

THE CONFABULISTS
Terri Witek & Cyriaco Lopes

In Cyriaco Lopes and Terri Witek's joint video, the duo of visual artist and poet query each other about their work and their 16-year collaboration.

LOVE IS HARD
Veronica Gonzalez Peña

What are some of the different ways in which we can show intimacy, and/or its painful dissolution? How does our chosen language of intimacy affect the receiver? Do authorial and narratorial distance necessarily echo the distance between our characters? How do our formal love moves affect the reader/viewer? Through a close viewing of clips from Bergman's "Scenes From a Marriage," and Noah Baumbach's "Marriage Story," which Baumbach acknowledges was influenced by Bergman's great film, we will see how a director's stance/distance affects the viewer/receiver.

We'll end by looking at a couple of love scenes from "Amores Perros," Inárritu's great Mexico City love triangle which pits brother against brother, in a triad through which we understand each of the characters more deeply.

I will ask each of you to pick a love scene from one of your texts, and revise it, writing it from two different distances of intimacy.

For my “live” virtual presentation I will read a love scene of my own, from my novel *The Sad Passions*, in which twenty-year-old Sandra believes she is her disappeared sister’s double, culminating in Sandra’s dissolution of self while making love to her sister’s one-time lover, Pablo. At the end of Salon, I hope there will be time for a few of you to share your revised love scenes.

8-9pm Performance and Salon Q&A: Terri Witek & Cyriaco Lopes and Veronica Gonzalez Peña

SUNDAY, June 6, 2021

Sometime Workshops begin: check schedule with faculty

During the day, engage Guest Artist Talk #1b

POINT OF VIEW IN SHORT FICTION: POSSIBILITIES FOR PLAY **Sarah Shun-lien Bynum**

James Wood begins his wonderful book *How Fiction Works* with a chapter on “Narrating” in which he observes, with a nod to Henry James, “The house of fiction has many windows, but only two or three doors. I can tell a story in the third person or in the first person, and perhaps in the second person singular, or in the first person plural, though successful examples of these latter two are rare indeed. And that is it.” Yet while we may have only two or three doors at our disposal, we have many ways of opening those doors. What are the possibilities for play, surprise, and expansion in a short story’s approach to narration and point of view? In this talk we will look at several of the texts that served as models for me as I was working on the stories in my collection *Likes*. We’ll discuss how point of view can be as dynamic and generative an element in short fiction as language or form.

8-9pm Performance and Salon Q&A: Sarah Shun-lien Bynum

MONDAY, June 7, 2021

Sometime Workshop: check schedule with faculty

During the day, engage Guest Artist Talk #2b

UNSTATEMENTS: TRANSLATING AGAINST THE STATE OF THINGS AND THE THINGS OF THE STATE **Urayoán Noel**

Let us imagine together a translation that might unsettle the language of the state. Let us “irritate the state” (Doris Sommer, [Bilingual Aesthetics](#)) and the vehicular languages (“langues véhiculaires”) of European colonization (Édouard Glissant, [Poetics of Relation](#)) by writing and translating texts beyond the phantasy of absorption into a nation-state

imagined as unproblematically monolingual. Let us embrace translation as an "anti-neocolonial" performance, as "a site where things are already mirrored, re-represented" (Don Mee Choi, [Translation is a Mode=Translation is an Anti-neocolonial Mode](#)). Let us dream translation as a pan-diasporic practice that is both a "lifeline [...] to other writers and cultures across the globe" and "a call to reconfigure how we think about the world" (John Keene, ["Translating Poetry, Translating Blackness"](#)). Let us demand of (self-) translation invocations of counter-archival possibilities beyond the settler archives of the Américas (Francisco X. Alarcón, [Snake Poems: An Aztec Invocation](#)), queer decolonial interruptions of the binary logics of empire (Raquel Salas Rivera, [lo terciario/the tertiary](#)), the summoning of embodied vernaculars against the language of the ableist/racial capitalist state ([Carolyn McCaskill](#) and the [Black ASL Project](#)). In lieu of a conventional workshop or craft talk, let us engage with and correspond with a range of practices irreducible to [the hegemonic state of things](#) in literary translation as practiced institutionally in the US:

- *self-translation as a queer/decolonial project (Salas Rivera/Alarcón)
- *translingual writing from and toward creolizing and indigenous formations across the Américas (Frankétienne, Wingston González)
- *translations as translocal *aproximaciones* (José Emilio Pacheco) attuned to "pain as speech" (Muriel Rukeyser)
- *translation as everyday being in the world and as necessarily dissonant collaborative ritual (Pierre Joris & Nicole Peyrafitte)
- *ecopoetics as what Roman Jakobson calls *intersemiotic translation* and as a subaltern feminist objectual praxis (Nicole Cecilia Delgado)
- *concrete poetics of translation (Amanda Berenguer, Esteban Valdés) as subaltern contestations of state violence
- *translation in terms of the paradoxes of calling oneself a translator in a digital world of "Netlish" and "untranslatability" (Emily Apter)

Above all, let us make (do).

8-9pm Performance and Salon Q&A: Urayoán Noel

TUESDAY, June 8, 2021

(no workshop)

During the day, engage Guest Artist Talk #3b

EDGAR HEAP OF BIRDS, SPIRIT CITIZEN: PROVOCATIVE NATIVE AMERICAN PUBLIC ART AND STUDIO PRACTICE
Edgar Heap of Birds

A talk by Edgar Heap of Birds

3-4:30pm **LIBRARY CONSTELLATIONS AND CONVERSATIONS: EXAMINING CREATIVE AND RESEARCH ELEMENTS AVAILABLE TO MFA CANDIDATES** (*optional*)

Hunter Murphy, Stetson Librarian (and novelist in his own right)

This interactive, virtual 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.

8-9pm Lecture and Salon Q&A: Edgar Heap of Birds

WEDNESDAY, June 9, 2021

Sometime Workshop: check schedule with faculty

During the day, engage Faculty Artist Talks #3a and #4a

PIN TAIL COMB

LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs

Let me tell a story. Let me show you what I see, what I dream, where I fall and where it can sometimes hurt. And then let's talk about how I've used languages, where I may have fallen into a couple of hiccups, what makes me write now with caution (which pisses me off) because I am older and younger. Knowing a little more than what I did when I now do it, the tiny voice says "stop." It feels so good to make mistakes. It feels good at time to give it (what is it anyway?) to the termitesⁱ. May I suggest that to bury it far, far away and let it rot to unearth later or never is ok? Why stop? Who told you to stop? Let me show you. Or no.

Meditations: Linked in Canvas

BOOK ARTS AS WRITING PRACTICE

Stephanie Sauer

Let's look at how the fold in a slip of paper might spark a new piece of writing or how the shape of a publication can help us to grow, change, or reimagine a text. Together, we will look at the book works and publishing practices of Regina Melim, Sally Alatalo, Dyke Action Machine, and Sandra de la Loza's Pocho Research Society of Erased and Invisible History. I'll also share my most recent work-in-progress and offer strategies for writing into and from the physical shape a book might take.

8-9pm Performance and Salon Q&A: LaTasha N Nevada Diggs and Stephanie Sauer, with MFA Staff and Tech Goddess, Shelby Smotherman

ⁱ Sun of the Soil (2020), Directed by Joe Penney and written by Ladan Osman

THURSDAY, June 10, 2021

Sometime Workshop: check schedule with faculty

During the day, engage Guest Artist Talk #4b

BRAIDING THE MATERIAL/S AND THE IMMATERIAL/S

Brenda Hillman

This informal presentation (and Q and A) will be about bringing unlike materials into relationship in your poetic writing. Using as an example "Metaphor & Simile," a series of poems in *Extra Hidden Life, among the Days*, a book about grieving, ecological healing that braids ecological thought, language play, trance poetics and politics in a series of poems based on a personal notebook, I will talk about composition technique, intuition, document and activism to show how unlike materials will sit next to each other in a poem or poetic sequence. I hope to give people useful tools that will push their writing past expected places.

5-6pm Cocktails and Conversation with MFA Director, Teresa Carmody. All students welcome; new students especially encouraged to attend.

8-9pm Performance and Salon Q&A: Brenda Hillman

FRIDAY, June 11, 2021

(no workshop)

During the day, engage Guest Artist Talk #5b

ZOOM CONVERSATIONS WITH MY FATHER

Aisha Sabatini Sloan

I will discuss the process of editing interviews with my father for a collaborative book we are putting together, which helps illuminate my own, associative process of mapping out reference points for an essay.

2-3pm **MAKING IT PUBLIC: DIVYA VICTOR & AARON COHICK ON COLLABORATIVE MAKING & PUBLISHING**

Divya Victor and Aaron Cohick

CURB is a collaborative artist's book by Victor and Cohick, two artists that have been in conversation for a long time, working together (but still separately in many ways) to make a new thing that neither would have necessarily made on their own. The two will discuss the creation of *CURB*, as well as non-traditional modes of publishing (advantages, disadvantages, challenges, opportunities). Victor will also read

from *CURB* and speak to the process of developing it into a traditionally published trade book (published this year by Nightboat).

8-9pm Performance and Salon Q&A: Aisha Sabatini Sloan

SATURDAY, June 12, 2021

Sometime Workshop: check schedule with faculty

During the day, engage Faculty Artist Talk #5a

PLACE IS INSIDE, TOO
Teresa Carmody

"She began thinking of adolescence as a place one inhabits. First in the body, then in books and films, in art."

This is a sentence from my recently published novel, *The Reconception of Marie*. The book voices Marie at different stages of her life: when she's 13, 17, and 8 years old, and as an adult, reflecting on her own acculturation in Western Michigan, amidst white Evangelical and Catholic communities. In this talk, I'll be exploring a notion of *place* that exceeds setting, place as a confluence a character/narrator exists within: sociologically, somatically, geographically, historically. How might place be a quality created in, and erupting from, our bodies? How might we convey, in writing, a sense of internal place, experienced both in resonance and dissonance with the external world? I'll explore these questions, in part, by discussing how I structured and paced different sections of the novel to better reflect Marie's sense of embodied place, and thus invite the reader into her world.

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

8-9pm Performance and Salon Q&A: Teresa Carmody, with readings by MFA Coordinators Ryan Rivas and Rachel Cleveland

SUNDAY, June 13, 2021

Sometime Time to prepare for virtual performance. All students present for three minutes, max.

7:30-9pm **#MFAotA Student Performances! [NOTE EARLIER START TIME!]**

MONDAY, June 14, 2021

by noon Goodbyes and post your pic to #MFAotA Whatsapp