

Faculty headshots, encounters, bios

CORE FACULTY

Cyriaco Lopes



BIO:

Brazilian-American artist Cyriaco Lopes has exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro, the Museum of Art of São Paulo (MASP), El Museo del Barrio in NYC, the Centre Wallonie Bruxelles in Paris, Casa Degli Artisti in Milan, among other international venues. In 2022 he had a solo exhibition at Satchel Projects in Chelsea, NYC. His work has been selected and curated in exhibitions by critics such as Yasufumi Nakamori, Paulo Herkenhoff and Adriano Pedrosa, as well as by artists such as Lygia Pape, Janine Antoni, Luciano Fabro, and Ryan Trecartin. He is the winner of the NYC World Studio Foundation Award, the Contemporary Art Museum Saint Louis Project Award, the São Paulo Phillips Prize of trip to Europe.

His performances with poet Terri Witek have been seen at the Centro Nacional de Cultura in Lisbon, Portugal, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, the Salford Museum, in Manchester, England, the Atlantic Center for the Arts, FL, the Centre del Carme Cultura Contemporanea, in Valencia, Spain, and Oi Futuro Center for Art & Technology, in Rio, Brazil. Their collaboration was featured at the 2023 ARCO Madrid, where their gallery, *The Liminal*, won one of the two special mentions by the jury.

The artist holds two M.F.A.s: one in Imaging and Digital Arts, UMBC, Baltimore, and the other in Visual Languages, UFRJ, Rio de Janeiro. He attended artist's residencies such as Skowhegan, the London Project, MassMoca, and the MacDowell Colony (where Lopes was a 2019 Marian O. Naumburg Photography fellow).

ENCOUNTERS LIST:

- [Author Site](#)
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Terri Witek



BIO:

Terri Witek's 8 books of poetry include her newest collection, *Something's Missing in This Museum* (2023) ; a new chapbook, *Down Water Street* is forthcoming in 2024 from aboveground press. Her work has been included in many anthologies, including 2 from 2021: *JUDITH: Women Making Visual Poetry (Timglaset)* and *WAAVe (Women Asemic Artist and Visual Poets)* Witek's art/text mixes are often featured in collaboration: she teaches Poetry in the Expanded Field in Stetson University's low-residency MFA of the Americas with Brazilian visual artist Cyriaco Lopes; they also lead The Fernando Pessoa Game at the Disquiet International Literary Program each summer in Lisbon. Their collaborative work has been represented at ARCO in Madrid and in Seoul, Chania (Crete), Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Lisbon, and Valencia, Spain. terriwitek.com

ENCOUNTERS LIST:

- [Author Site](#)
 - Book, [The Rattle Egg](#)
 - Book, [The Rape Kit \(Slope Editions Prize\)](#)
 - Book, [Something's Missing in This Museum](#)
 - Anthology, [JUDITH: Women Making Visual Poetry \(Timglaset\)](#)
 - Anthology, [WAAVe \(Women Asemic Artist and Visual Poets\)](#)
 - Publication, [BEYOND THE ILLEGIBLE ON BOUNDARY AVE](#)
 - Exhibit, [The Severe Ones and Gods of Remainder \(The Liminal Gallery, ARCO 2023 - Madrid\)](#) Special jury mention: [El aire comienza a tomar las formas lentas del mármol](#)
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Steven Dunn



BIO:

Steven Dunn, a.k.a Pot Hole (cuz he's deep in these streets) is the recipient of a 2021 Whiting Award, and the author of three novels: *Potted Meat* (2016), *water & power* (2018), and *Tannery Bay* (2024), which is co-written with Katie Jean Shinkle. *Potted Meat* was a finalist for the Colorado Book Award, and shortlisted for *Granta Magazine's* Best of Young American Novelists, and adapted to a short film by

Foothills Productions. The Usual Route has played at L.A. International Film Festival, Houston International Film Festival, and others. He was born and raised in West Virginia.

ENCOUNTERS LIST:

- [Author Site](#)
 - [Video, The secret to a happier life? Look for moments of softness](#)



- Book, [Tannery Bay \(written with Katie Jean Shinkle\)](#)
 - Book, [water & power](#)
 - Book, [Potted Meat](#)
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Vidhu Aggarwal



BIO:

Vidhu Aggarwal's poetry and multimedia practices engage with world-building in multiple platforms: poetry, video, and graphic media. In her poetry books, *The Trouble with*

Humpadori (2016) *Daughter Isotope* (2021), she engages in a “cloud poetics,” as a way of thinking about personal, collective, and digital archives. A Djerassi resident and Kundiman fellow, she is the Theodore Bruce and Barbara Lawrence Alfond Chair of Literature at Rollins College. You can find them at daughterisotope.com.

ENCOUNTERS LIST:

- [Author Site](#)
 - Video work: [Three Poem-films](#)
 - Book: [Daughter Isotope](#)
 - Book: [The Trouble with Humpadori](#)
 - Chapbook: [Avatara](#)
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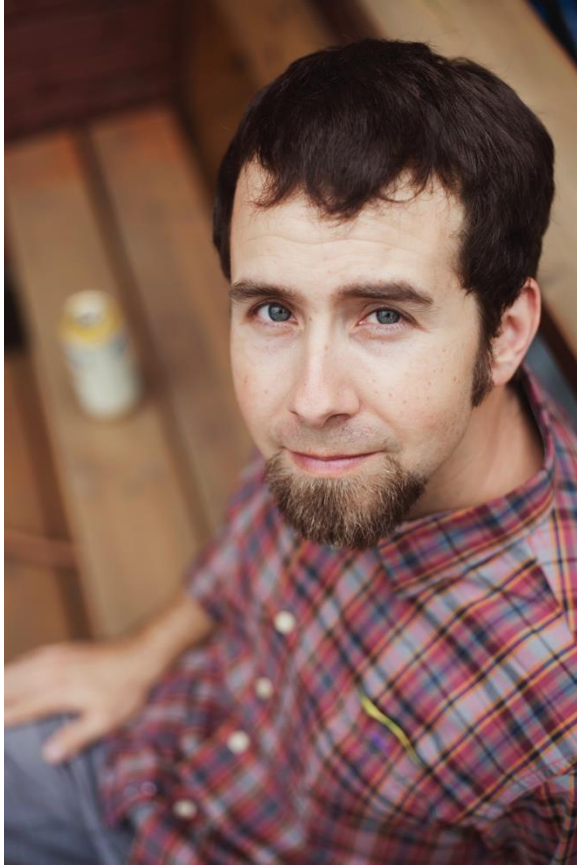
Brendan Bowles



BIO: Brendan Bowles is a writer from Toronto, Ontario. His work has been published and produced for stage and radio and has won some of the largest short story awards in Canada. He was Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University and a Fiction Fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts. He is currently the Interim Director of Stetson University's MFA of the Americas.

EXPLORATORY WORKSHOP FACULTY

JEFF PARKER



BIO:

Jeff Parker is the author of several books including *Where Bears Roam the Streets: A Russian Journal*, the novel *Ovenman*, and the short story collection *The Taste of Penny*. His many collaborative books and anthologies include: *Clean Rooms, Low Rates; Erratic Fire, Erratic Passion: The Poetry of Sportstalk; A Manner of Being: Writers on their Mentors; Rasskazy: New Fiction from a New Russia; Amerika: Russian Writers View the United States*; and *The Back of the Line*. His short fiction and nonfiction have appeared in *American Short Fiction*, *McSweeney's*, *Ploughshares*, *Tin House*, and others. He teaches prose in the MFA Program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and he is the Co-Founder and Director of the DISQUIET International Literary Program in Lisbon, Portugal. His most recent work is a novella in *Proper Imposters: Four Novellas* (Panhandler Books, Fall '24).

ENCOUNTERS LIST:

- Author site
- Novella, [G v. P](#)
- Book, [Where Bears Roam the Streets: A Russian Journal](#)

- Book, [Ovenman](#)
 - Book, [Clean Rooms. Low Rates.](#)
 - Book, [Erratic Fire, Erratic Passion: The Poetry of Sportstalk](#)
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Urayoán Noel



BIO:

Urayoán Noel is a Puerto Rican poet, scholar, translator, creative-nonfiction writer, and performer, and a 2022-2023 Letras Boricuas poetry fellow. His most recent books are the poetry collection *Transversal* (University of Arizona Press, 2021), which was named a Book of the Year by the New York Public Library and longlisted for the PEN Open Award, and, as translator, *adjacent islands/islas adyacentes* (Ugly Duckling Presse/DoubleCross Press/La Impresora, 2022), which collects two “camping books” by Puerto Rican poet and book artist Nicole Cecilia Delgado. A finalist for the National Translation Award, Noel has received the LASA Latino Studies Book Prize and an MLA Honorable Mention for his critical study *In Visible Movement: Nuyorican Poetry from the Sixties to Slam* (University of Iowa Press, 2014). His work has appeared in *Poetry* and the *New York Times*, and he has performed at Poesiefestival Berlin, Barcelona Poesia, and the Toronto Biennial of Art.

ENCOUNTERS LIST:

- [Author Site](#)
 - Book, [Transversal](#)
 - Book, [Buzzing Hemisphere / Rumor Hemisférico](#)
 - Book, [Los Días Porosos](#)
 - Criticism, [In Visible Movement](#)
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LUCA MOLNAR



BIO:

Luca Molnar (b. 1991, Budapest, Hungary) is a painter, most days. Her work uses historical figures and personal mythologies as its starting point, building networked connections through both research and intuition. In her paintings, pattern references imagined domestic spaces, allowing the private sphere to emerge as a complex and contradictory site worthy of our attention. Her interest in our relationships with the past, memory, and identity extends into her installation work and writing.

Molnar received her MFA from New York University and her BA in Studio Art from Dartmouth College. Recent exhibitions include *The Beauty of Politics: Oscar Bluemner and Luca Molnar* at the Hand Art Center (DeLand, FL); *Helybe* at alt_space Gallery (New Smyrna Beach, FL); and *Same Source* at Art Center Sarasota (FL). Molnar is an Assistant Professor of Studio Art at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida.

ENCOUNTERS LIST:

- [Artist Site](#)



- Video interview: [The Beauty of Politics](#)
 - Exhibition statement: [Helybe](#)
 - Published interview: [Same Source](#)
 - Curatorial project: [Painting Requests from Tomoka](#)
 - Catalogue essay: [Moonlight Over Sea Trees](#)
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Chesya Burke



BIO:

Dr. Chesya Burke has written and published over a hundred stories and articles within the genres of horror, speculative fiction, comics, and Afrofuturism. Her short story collection, *Let's Play White*, is being taught in universities around the world, and Grammy Award winning poet, Nikki Giovanni, compared her writing to that of Octavia Butler and Toni Morrison. Burke's episode for *Under the Skin*, hosted by Carey Mulligan,

was produced by Amazon and her story, *An American Fable*, appears in the Jordan Peele anthology *Out There Screaming*. She is represented by Alec Shane of Writer's House and Sukee Chew and Katrina Escudero of Sugar23.

STAFF

Ryan Rivas



BIO:

Ryan Rivas is the author of *Nextdoor in Colonialtown* (Autofocus, 2022) and *Lizard People* (ThirtyWest, 2023). He is the Publisher of Burrow Press, and the Coordinator of MFA Publishing at Stetson University's MFA of the Americas creative writing program. A Macon Writers Workshop fellow, his work has appeared in *The Believer*, *The Rumpus*, *Literary Hub*, *Best American Nonrequired Reading* 2012, and elsewhere.

Shelby Smotherman



BIO:

Shelby Smotherman is a writer, artist, and theatrical technician working in the Tampa Bay Area. Most often, she works with paint and lighting and uses language from her technical background to fill her poetry, as well as taking heavy influence from pop culture.

Jen Anders

**BIO:**

New Jersey native, Jen Anders's steadfast commitment is to creating connections - either through art, yoga or philanthropy. She is the current MFA of the Americas Program Coordinator at Stetson University. Jen is a mixed-media sculptor and has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpture from Memphis College of Art. She also has a Master of Science in Nonprofit Administration from Louisiana State University is a registered yoga teacher with over 600 hours of certification from Yoga Alliance.

SPECIAL GUEST

Glexis Novoa



BIO:

Glexis Novoa was born in Holguín, Cuba, in 1964. By the second half of the 1980s, Novoa had developed an articulated professional career, becoming one of the most radical influences on the vibrant local art scene known as "The 1980s Cuban Art Revival." Founder of the Provisional group, pioneers of performance, political activism and collectivist strategies. He has been producing site-specific wall drawings and ephemeral projects that exist on the border between ephemeral art and architecture. Recurrently focusing on architecture of power and social politics as the main subject. Novoa has had shown at, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana; Today Art Museum, Beijing; Queens Museum, New York; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Ludwig Forum für International Kunst, Aachen; Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan; Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Trento and Rovereto, Trento; Reina Sofía National Museum, Madrid; Perez Art Museum in Miami; El Museo del Barrio, New York; Museum of the Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexico City; Center d'art Contemporary Passerelle, Brest, France, among many others.