Good evening, and welcome to Creative Counterpoints: Artists Translate Difference.

Tonight’s program is the second one in the Creative Counterpoints series, that began at MassArt in 2016 to explore narratives of creativity and difference.

This year’s event is an evening of artist talks by three MassArt alumni -class of 2017 - on the theme of translation across linguistic, cultural and mediatic forms, as it manifests itself in the lives and work of these artists.

The artists featured tonight are:

Mariana Yanes Cabral, Art Education

Ryan Vazquez, Film-Video

And Gustavo Barceloni, 3D Ceramics

I will have the honor of introducing each of them individually to you shortly.

But first, let me say a few words about how tonight’s artist talks came to be. In line with the theme of “difference” let’s start right from the end - the back (cover) of your program - there is a quote there by artist Wangechi Mutu that captures the image and the question at the core of Creative Counterpoints:

*I have always wondered whether you can take something beautiful, solid and whole and smash it, shatter it into pieces, and in putting the pieces together make a whole that is actually more beautiful, stronger and more interesting that it was before.*

*Wangechi Mutu* – 2015 MassArt Adderley Lecture

In the context of Mutu’s work of collage and dismembered female bodies this quote speaks to the experiences of identities and personal stories being broken, smashed against something hard - and the question of what kind of beauty is possible in the aftermath of this rupture - despite of or maybe *because of* the cracks.

But I think that Mutu’s quote also speaks to this experiment with Gustavo, Ryan and Mariana.

As a teacher, I want to believe that the classes I taught, which is where I met Gustavo Mariana and Ryan, have been at least partially the catalyst for their more recent creative work.

But in my years at MassArt I have learned that an artist’s family of concerns and recurring questions only serendipitously align themselves with the academic curriculum.

So as Gustavo, Mariana, Ryan and I met during the past seven months to tease out their narratives of creativity and difference, I came to think of my classes just as one available space where these questions were given validity and legitimacy.

**You see**, some of the questions that teachers and artists bring to the classroom, are destined to break and pop as the semester unfolds, and the work tests them - they smash or dissolve at the contact with the atmosphere - so to speak.

This can be an unsettling process for both the artist and the teacher.

The questions that survive this process, however, become a constellation of references more interesting and more beautiful than the original questions that the artist *and* the teacher had brought with them.

What you witness this evening are these precious questions that defied gravity - the orbiters - still cracked because tested by time and work. These are the questions that will chart these artists’ interesting and beautiful paths - some of which beyond Massart, others within massart, and others even *through* Massart.

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**Before I move out of the way** I wish to give my heartfelt thanks to the following Massart departments whose generous support has made Creative Counterpoints possible:

Academic Affairs

Office of Alumni Relations

Liberal Arts Department

Office of Student Development

Center for Art and Community Partnerships (CACP)

Career Development Office

The President’s Office

I also want to thank the creative professionals who have ensured that, despite the spring break and the snow days, this event took place and be documented as it deserves.

Some of these individuals have worked on Creative Counterpoints in 2016 too, and sticked around, which is a good sign.

**Renee Carraggi and Jeremy Dupont**  for the amazing graphic design work on the posters, flyers and the programs;

**Tony Flackett and Kyle Brock** tech magicians, and true artists of the DMC space, and both gifted with unwavering patience - ( I so loved reading Kyle ‘s ‘no problem - we can do this’ in a lot of his email)

**Franco Pons and Elena White** from CACP - who have put time and **love** in promoting this event.

**Candis Hilton** Administrative Assistant for the Liberal Arts - for orchestrating all the little and not so little details of logistics and communication.

**Zach Suto** - another MassArt alum - who is responsible for tonight’s video footage;

**Amy Fink**, who is lending us her photographic talents;

**Nicky Enriquez** who, as always, has graciously curated our digital presence (as I am still in pre instagram era…)

Finally, I want to thank and welcome all MassArt students in the house - I hope that these talks are particularly inspiring to you, and reverberate with feelings of **possibility** and **becoming**.

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**A last note about the format of this evening**: There will be three artist talks, each of about 20 minutes - we kindly ask you to keep your question until the end of the last talk

 Feel free to jot down your questions especially the burning ones, in the card provided.

We particularly welcome questions that focus on the overarching themes across the three artist body of work.

The Q&As will last until **ten past eight** or **8:15**. After then we will all head just outside for the reception - with yummy food and one more opportunity to talk with the artists and maybe hand them your card with the questions that didn't make it to the QAs.

Thank you!

**Pause for claps**

Our first artist is Mariana Yanes Cabral - Mariana graduated in Art Education in 2017. They are an interdisciplinary artist, educator, and writer, born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil the eldest of three children in a multi-national household. Mariana’s work explores nostalgia, introspection, race, and politics with both traditional and digital media. Their experience lies in drawing, portraiture, bookbinding, watercolour, digital collage, embroidery, and performance. Raised as a translator through necessity, they use translation as a medium to critique dogma.

Join me in welcoming Mariana!

6 minutes

‘’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’’

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Ryan Vazquez is a filmmaker and video artist born in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. He graduated in Film-Video in 2017.

Ryan documents events in New England and the Caribbean, and creates advertising and marketing videos for small businesses. Ryan is very interested in digital content that focuses on contemporary issues of social relevance, from practices of linguistic and cultural translation, to racial and ethnic identities as they interface with current and past political realities across the Americas.

#3

Gustavo Barceloni graduated in 3D Ceramics in 2017. Gustavo was born in Brazil and raised in Greater Boston. He collaborates with chefs and designs illustrative tableware for home and restaurant use. He also creates installations and community based projects, which explore the complexities of living within the Brazilian diaspora. Gustavo describes his illustrative work as “sophisticated classroom notebook doodles”, and strives to include in his work not just humorous style but also his politics, history, and humanity. He is currently enrolled in a Master’s program in Education at UMASS Boston.

Gustavo, take them away!

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**QAs: Question to begin with:** - I wanted to ask all of you if you can name a somewhat new direction that your profession as artist is taking in light of the personal and geo-political narratives you have shared with us this evening - (something about your professional careers that you have not shared in your talk).

Question from Gilford - one of my freshmen students.

 "How do you stay motivated to continue doing your art every day?"

**Concluding Remarks:**

Please join me in thanking Mariana, Ryan and Gustavo for translating for us their creative talent, and personal stories.

Let’s walk outside for our time to eat, drink and get to know the artists up close.

If you need to go, feel free to hand the card with your question for the artists to one of us.

**Thank you for joining us tonight. We wish you a great rest of this Creative Counterpoints evening! See you next year! :-)**

**Music starts**

Mariana: appeal to vulnerability of the experience of alienhood. Translation as an act of love. From America to truth. Also as an act of curation. The necessity, power and selfishness of curating a single story. “Authenticity” as a tool, a deception.

Ryan: the challenge and control that comes with being bilingual.

Making a few mirrors but also holding up a mirror to our society.

Gustavo: the transnational discomfort.

How many things art can do.