

SPRING 2015



AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CREATIVE FUSION SPRING CLASS: 2015

As you will see from the items in this second newsletter, our artists have clearly begun to make a deep impact on students and residents of our community - and after barely a month here! I am astounded at the level of their activity. These incredibly collegial artists from such different parts of the world (Chile and eastern Europe) have bonded as a group, but also connected deeply to the artists and others they have met. They work hard at their own projects, at the same time they are spreading their culture through lectures, workshops, classes - and food. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to the residency and cannot wait to see what wonderful work of their own they will bring forward between now and the end of May.

-Kathleen Cerveney & Sally Winter



Rebekah Wilhelm, Zygote Shop Manager, and Mauricio taking a swing in the APE MADE loft and studio. (Photo courtesy: April Bleakney)

Mauricio Cristobal Cortes Fuentes - Chile

Hosted by [Zygote Press](#)

Mauricio has been busy sharing his knowledge with area students. He had the opportunity to work with some talented ladies from Beaumont School when they came to Zygote to create monoprints and letter-pressed prints. He also recently spoke with about 50 students from Cleveland Institute of Art's "Lunch on Fridays" lecture series.

Mauricio has also been making connections in the community. He met Todd Pownell and Debra Rosen from TAP Studios, a jewelry metals production shop. At the closing of the "They Came, They Saw, They Printed" exhibition, he listened to a wonderful and informative panel discussion featuring Barbara Tannenbaum, curator of photography at the Cleveland Museum of Art, and local art dealer William Busta. The conversation ranged from building an art collection to the artist's process of archiving their own work. He also visited April Bleakney of APE MADE Studios, a garment and purpose-driven screenprinting and apparel company, where he got a tour (and a good swing in) at her new live-workspace.

Beatriz Garcia-Huidobro - Chile

Hosted by [Verb Ballets](#)

Beatriz has not only shared her culture and created new work during her residency, through one recent experience, she also made a very meaningful connection.

Beatriz has been visiting Eliza Jennings nursing home, where she is gathering stories from the residents. During a recent visit, Beatriz began a conversation with an Hispanic resident who rarely talks or communicates with staff or other residents. Thanks to their shared language and Beatriz's compassionate approach, the two of them spoke earnestly for almost an hour.



Beatriz with students from Facing History High School

Beatriz also regularly visits Facing History High School. The students there have read her translation of *Carnival of the Animals* and each student has been assigned a poem to read in Spanish during the Verb Ballets performance at the high school.

Beatriz has also written her first full length ballet synopsis! Verb is exploring the potential to bring the story to life through dance.

Mihaela Kavdanska -

Bulgaria/Romania

Hosted by [Inlet Dance Theatre](#)

Mika and Inlet are extraordinarily busy in the rehearsal studio collaborating for their performance premiere at Cleveland Public Theatre's DanceWorks '15 on April 23-25. Mika and Inlet will present three new works and they are racing against the clock to finalize them before opening night.



Mika (l) and Cleveland artist Kasumi (r) outside Luna Bakery & Cafe.

Mika recently conducted a workshop at the Cleveland Institute of Art for Tina Cassara's "Mapping & Memory" course. Mika shared her journey in the art world, showed examples of her artistic and corporate work to the students, and gave the students feedback on their ideas and proposals. Everyone left exchanging hugs and offering invitations to re-engage in the future.

Mika and Inlet also reached out to Cleveland's internationally-renowned digital media artist and filmmaker, Kasumi. Mika and Kasumi share many friends around the world due to the genre of their artwork and participation in the same festivals. The two had a fun meeting at Luna Bakery & Cafe in Cleveland Heights.



Alexandru prepares for his pinhole photography class at CIA.

Alexandru Patatic - Romania

Hosted by [Ingenuity Cleveland](#)

Alexandru was invited to be a guest lecturer for an upcoming day-long class at the Cleveland Institute of Art. He will be working with students to create pinhole cameras in the morning and explore alternative printing techniques in the afternoon.

In recent weeks, Alexandru has made headway on his remake of "Talking Heads." He is working on finding a range of participants, from young to old. This work will be previewed at Ingenuity's annual fundraiser, Bal Ingénieux, on May 16th at the Kalman & Pabst Photo Group's warehouse studios. It will also be on display at the group exhibition a few days later.

Alexandru has also made time to work with fellow Creative Fusion artists, Beatriz and Antonia. He has collaborated with Beatriz on her work at Facing History High School and with Antonia on her final project. He took time out for some traveling, too. He recently spent a long weekend in New York City to visit with family and friends and also fit in some shopping. He purchased alternative photography materials that weren't readily available here in Cleveland.

Antonia Cruz - Chile

Hosted by [Cleveland Print Room](#)

Antonia recently celebrated her birthday at a Cleveland Print Room party attended by local photographers and CPR board members. She also has enjoyed some fun Cleveland places -attending the Cleveland International Film Festival and stopping by the Happy Dog to enjoy a band.



Antonia with fellow Creative Fusion artists Alexandru and Mika

Antonia continues to work with Saint Martin de Porres High School in instant photography and photogram workshops taught by local photography instructor Heather Murray. The students' work will be part of the Creative Fusion culminating exhibition. Antonia is also planning a two-day self-portrait and photogram workshop with students from the Westside Community House's Sisterhood Program in May.

Antonia recently visited another Creative Fusion partner, Lake Erie Ink, to discuss Chilean culture and collage photography with students in the after-school program there. She will be working with the students for five weeks in April and May, and the Lake Erie Ink students will also construct work for the final exhibition in May.

One of Antonia's works was included in the "Third Person" portraiture exhibition at the CPR gallery on March 20th, which featured 25 different artists and their work. Antonia is currently working on her exhibition, opening May 14th, where she will show the work she has completed in Cleveland.

Mkrtich Tonoyan - Armenia

Hosted by [The Sculpture Center](#)

Mkrtich is rapidly building a circle of Armenian-American friends in Cleveland, who have been taking him out for drinks and inviting him over for dinner. Several of these friends want to help Mkrtich create a permanent sculpture in Cleveland, either in the Waterloo Sculpture Park or near the Armenian Church. Plans for the sculpture are still in the development stage.



Mkrtich at the Easter reception at St. Gregory of Narek

Mkrtich enjoyed Armenian food at a reception he found through Cleveland's two Russian grocery stores. After the reception, Mkrtich gave an illustrated talk on the rich history, culture, and eastern Christian religion of Armenia from ancient times through the Genocide and Soviet period. On Easter Sunday, he attended the special service at St. Gregory of Narek and, at the priest's invitation, took the official photographs of the day.

Mkrtich recently delivered a talk to fine art students at Cleveland State University. In coming days, he will be traveling to Denison University to talk to students about his "Military Art." While there, he has also been invited to participate in student critiques by a professor who attended ACOSS, Mkrtich's residency program in Yerevan.

ABOUT CREATIVE FUSION

The Cleveland Foundation's Creative Fusion artist residency program partners international artists with local arts organizations with a goal of maximizing the cultural exchange between the artists and the community.

Since launching the Creative Fusion program in 2010, the Cleveland Foundation has brought 42 artists from countries including Chile, China, India, Korea, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Turkey, Uganda, Pakistan, Egypt, Romania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Nepal and Vietnam. The artists have worked in depth with more than 20,000 elementary, high school, and college students and their art has touched thousands of Greater Cleveland residents through performances, exhibitions, lectures, and personal encounters.

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