

SPRING 2015



## AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CREATIVE FUSION SPRING CLASS: 2015

*Once again we are privileged to welcome an amazing group of international artists into our community. Clustered from two geographical locations - South America and Eastern Europe - these six artists have already formed a strong bond with each other and with aspects of the Cleveland art scene. As you will see from their first few weeks here, noted below, they have embraced the cold, the city, our cultural institutions and many of our young people already.*

*We can't wait to see what will come over the next two months.*

*-Kathleen Cervený & Sally Winter*



Mauricio at the SAG Conference

### **Mauricio Cristobal Cortes Fuentes - Chile**

Hosted by [Zygote Press](#)

Mauricio and the entire Zygote staff recently took a road trip to the Southern Graphics Conference (SGC) in Knoxville, Tennessee. SGC is an international printmaking conference that draws more than 1,500 students, print academics, curators, technicians, print merchants and print-based artists from around the world.

Mauricio was able to purchase engraving and sharpening tools and other products unique to his niche practice at the incredible product fair. During the conference, he attended several demonstrations including some focused on basic and innovative principles for engraving on copper. He also viewed many of the contemporary print exhibitions taking place throughout the city.

During the trip the Zygote team had the opportunity to talk with Mauricio about his life, work and upbringing. Mauricio commented that a conference like SGC would never happen in Chile because print makers, and artists in general, like to keep their ideas to themselves. It was special for Mauricio to see the open sharing of information that took place at the conference.

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## **Beatriz Garcia-Huidobro - Chile**

Hosted by [Verb Ballets](#)

Beatriz is now fully engaged in her Creative Fusion activities! She has been attending Facing History High School where she helps students with creative writing in Spanish. Beatriz has translated Verb Ballets' Carnival of the Animals narration into Spanish and the Facing History students are working on the recitations. In May, Verb will perform the ballet at the school and the students will deliver the narration in both Spanish and English. She has also begun visiting the residents at Eliza Jennings and Eliza Bryant nursing homes to gather personal stories. She will work with the Verb dancers to create works about these life stories that will be performed at the nursing homes in May.



Beatriz with Verb dancers at the Rock Hall

Beatriz has enjoyed getting to know the Verb dancers on a social level. They have visited the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Rock Hall, where she was especially impressed by the Elvis Presley exhibit. She has also met two professors of Literature at Case Western Reserve University. One of them is Chilean and the other is Cuban. Beatriz assisted with two lectures: one about poet César Vallejo and the other about teaching Quechuan in Peru. She has been invited to give a lecture there in April where she will discuss the Chilean social novel in the twentieth century. Beatriz has also begun working on a Chilean story as a screenplay for a ballet.

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**Mihaela Kavdanska -**

*Bulgaria/Romania*

Hosted by [Inlet Dance Theatre](#)

In the weeks since she arrived in Cleveland, Mihaela (Mika) has been busy exploring the city and working in the studio with Inlet's dancers. From grocery shopping for her favorite vegetables to eating local treats to finding the appropriate equipment necessary for her art work, Mika is experiencing the many resources that make Cleveland incredible.



Mihaela working with dancers at Inlet

Mika's first day in the studio with Inlet's dancers was inspiring for Mika and the dancers. By her second visit to Inlet's rehearsal studio, she and the dancers began collaborative experiments, incorporating their different creative perspectives to create stimulating visual and physical experiences. Working together and bridging artistic mediums was an exciting and fruitful experience for both Mika and the dancers. Mika and her colleagues at Inlet are eager to show what develops over the next five weeks as they prepare for a collaborative performance at Cleveland Public Theatre's DanceWorks '15.



Alexandru taking a walk on Lake Erie

**Alexandru Patatics - Romania**

Hosted by [Ingenuity Cleveland](#)

Since beginning his residency, Alexandru has been initiating collaborative projects with local art institutions and planning his work for the duration of his Creative Fusion residency. Alexandru recently met with Bruce Checefsky of the Cleveland Institute of Art, where he will be presenting to students later in the semester.

During his Creative Fusion residency, Alexandru will primarily focus on presenting a multi-screen video film installation. As a secondary project, he would like to remake a work of Polish filmmaker Krzysztof Kieślowski's entitled "Talking Heads." In his free time, Alexandru embraced the Cleveland winter by taking a walk on frozen Lake Erie, where he enjoyed coffee from a temporary café constructed on the ice!

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## **Antonia Cruz - Chile**

Hosted by [Cleveland Print Room](#)

Since arriving in Cleveland, Antonia has wasted no time making new friends, creating art and meeting local artists. Antonia participated in a day-long digital photography workshop hosted by photographer, Brush High School teacher and Cleveland Print Room Advisory Board member Hadley K. Conner. She also met with local photographer Diana Hlywiak, who will assist Antonia with her culminating project. Antonia and fellow Creative Fusion artist Mauricio Cristobal Cortes Fuentes were introduced to a number of Clevelanders involved in the local art scene at a recent dinner party hosted by Cleveland Print Room Executive Director Shari Wilkins.



Antonia working in the photo lab

At the Print Room, Antonia began working with photography students from Saint Martin de Porres High School in a class taught by local photography instructor Heather Murray. Antonia is learning black and white photography processes that she will incorporate in her final work. After a quick darkroom primer, Antonia spent the second week of her residency creating photograms. In her free time, Antonia has explored local arts organizations, galleries and museums and was featured as a "guest DJ" on Case Western Reserve University's radio station, WRUW.

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## **Mkrtich Tonoyan - Armenia**

Hosted by [The Sculpture Center](#)

Two days after his arrival, Mkrtich Tonoyan gave a lecture on Armenian history and his own art practice to sculpture students in Irina Koukhanova's class at Cleveland State University. After the lecture, he stayed into the evening getting to know the studio art professors at CSU.

Soon after settling in Cleveland, Mkrtich made contact with St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church on Richmond Road, where he took fellow Creative Fusion artist Alexandru Patatics and his partner Andreea to a beautiful Sunday service. April 24th is the centennial anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and Mkrtich will work with the congregation at St. Gregory of Narek to prepare his own memorial commemorating the event.



Mkrtich, wearing a welding sweater, with a CSU student

Sadly, Mkrkich had to travel home to Armenia to bury his beloved grandmother who passed away at the age of 90. He has since returned to Cleveland where he is preparing for more work with the CSU students and has spoken with Omid Tavakoli about the possibility of erecting a sculpture in the Waterloo Sculpture Garden.

## 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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