



CELEBRATING THE ARTS & LETTERS

April 6-7, 2021

This year we are celebrating the importance of Arts & Letters with a theme of Talents at MDC. Join us as MDC faculty, students and esteemed guests explore the creative powers of the human imagination to resolve questions and expand knowledge. Drop in virtually and discover fine musicians, published poets, dancers, and visual artists working to produce new and unique works, some right before your eyes! Explore the arts with virtual activities that place you at the center of the creative process.

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ARTS & LETTERS ONGOING: Rising Stars 55th Annual Juried Student Exhibition

Opening Tuesday April 6

Please join us for an online feature of MDC advanced student artworks.

This exhibition is comprised of 25 juried artworks made from a variety of media and disciplines.

SEE MORE
RISING STARS



Sean Lim

1st Place
(COVID-19 Safety)



Hunter Glenn

2nd Place
(Shopping's a Pleasure)



Michael Garcia

3rd Place
(Untitled)



Basic Codes of Origin · The Presence of the Body, Gender and Identity in Her Works

Tuesday, April 6 · 9:50–10:50 a.m.

Maria Martinez-Cañas: Keynote Speaker

Belonging to a generation of artists who had experienced the consequences of upheaval and displacement in their own lives, Martínez-Cañas will revisit in her short presentation the presence of gender, identity and body politics in her early works. Charting origins, tracing identity, and recording the history of migration and displacement within her own life and work.

The public will be able to see an ongoing dialogue between her own body and the landscape regarding presence, absence, and the inevitable cycles within nature and life. Her profound exploration of self that manifested itself as she turns to the residues of her own body, to create lyrical, ephemeral impressions related to even more basic codes of origin.



Meet the Keynote Speaker Maria Martinez-Cañas

Tuesday, April 6 · 10:50–11:05 a.m.

This will be a great opportunity to ask questions, chat,
and discuss ideas with visiting speaker Maria Martinez-Cañas.



Love Letters: Carolina Hospital

Tuesday, April 6 · 11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Professor and poet Carolina Hospital tells all about her love letters in this “last lecture” presentation. She has taught at Miami Dade College, where she has been awarded three Endowed Teaching Chairs, for 34 years. She has published eight books including the poetry collections *Key West Nights and Other Aftershocks* (Anhinga Press), *The Child of Exile: a Poetry Memoir* (Arte Publico Press), and *Myth America* (Anhinga Press) a collaborative collection with Maureen Seaton, Holly Iglesias, and Nicole Hospital-Medina.

Her work has appeared in numerous national publications, such as the Norton Anthology of Latino Literature; *Raising Lilly Ledbetter: Women Occupy the Workplace*; *Bedford/St. Martin’s Florida Literature*, and *Longman’s Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing*. She will be retiring in the fall.



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This Modern Man Is Beat

Tuesday, April 6 · 12:40–1:55 p.m.

An award-winning 15-minute film followed by a discussion with David Schroeder, screenwriter, and a behind-the-scene account of the process of making a film.

THIS MODERN MAN IS BEAT, was produced and screen written by Schroeder, and has won 110 Best Film Awards.

David Schroeder is a full professor teaching composition, creative writing and screenwriting. In 2001, he received the Peter H. Clayton Endowed Teaching Chair for teaching excellence.

Actor Jon Voight presented Schroeder the Golden Palm Award at the 2013 Beverly Hills Film Festival "... to a screenwriter that possesses extraordinary writing ability and a deep understanding of structure, premise, characters, and dialogue. We want to feel the heart of the story beating..., and feel so compelled with the story that it's virtually impossible to stop reading it."

His scripts have won 'Best Screenplay' 66 times.



Until We're Fish, a Novel

Tuesday, April 6 · 2:05–3:15 p.m.

Susannah Rodríguez Drissi, PhD an award-winning Cuban-born poet, writer, playwright, translator, director, producer, and scholar will read excerpts from her debut novel, *Until We're Fish*. The novel is an unforgettable coming-of-age story, blending the romance, violence, mood, and ethos of the Cuban Revolution with a young man's hopeless and heroic first love. *Until We're Fish* was nominated for the National Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the PEN Open Book Award, and the PEN / Hemingway Award.



Guest Lecture: Why the Arts Matter

Peter G. Kalivas, the Artistic Director of the
PGK Dance Project in San Diego, California

Tuesday, April 6 · 3:30–4:15 p.m.

Peter G. Kalivas is originally from Long Island, New York, where he discovered music and dance through his Greek roots. As a dancer, he was an original member of Sean Curran Company and Ailey II, originating well-known roles at The Joyce Theatre and Jacob's Pillow American Dance Festival. The New York Times described his performances as “witty, sublime, and spot on”. He also played Mr. Mistoffelees in CATS on Broadway. As a choreographer, his work has been produced, presented, and commissioned in 20 countries. His PGK DANCE films have received critical acclaim and public celebration.



Gypsy Jazz with Marc Magellan and Marcus Magalhaes

Tuesday, April 6 · 4:30–5:30 p.m.

The Sunshine Stompers

The 1920's and 30's were an era of flappers, gangsters, prohibition, and traditional jazz. Prof. Marc Magellan on guitar and banjo wizard Marcus Magalhaes play good-time swing, early jazz, and traditional roots music in the genre of Pokey Lafarge, Two Man Gentleman Band, Woody Pines, and Tuba Skinny; influenced by the likes of Django Reinhardt and Fats Waller. The Sunshine Stompers play their spirited music with a fun vibe and always give their audiences a great time.



ATTACK!! (or How I Built a Business to Survive as an Artist)

by Peter Santa-Maria

Tuesday, April 6 · 5:45–6:45 p.m.

Come hang with me as I tell you how I went from knowing nothing about anything to working as a salaried artist with health benefits simply by doubling down on being me!

Peter Santa-Maria is a Miami-based artist and designer. Working primarily in the process of printmaking, his artwork spans from original designs to pop culture icons. He works at Skybound Entertainment developing his own brand, ATTACK PETER and producing a weekly show on YouTube with his wife Gaby where they hang out and make new artwork while giving a peek behind the curtain into his life as an artist.

He is heavily influenced by traditional imagery from Thailand, American traditional tattoo flash, the work of Jack Kirby, the spirit of Todd McFarlane, and his family.



MDC Jazz Ensemble

Tuesday, April 6 · 7–8 p.m.

Under the direction of Professor Matt Bonelli, the MDC Jazz Band and Jazz Workshop perform various genre of jazz for small and large ensembles.



Destination Art: Where am I headed?

Wednesday, April 7 · 8:00–8:45 a.m.

Carolina Alamilla depicts her journey in navigating a creative life through various college experiences while still identifying with her Miami roots. Taking advantage of opportunities along the way which have led to a professional practice in teaching, curating and art-making.

Carolina holds a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Ceramics & Transmedia from Texas Tech University, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. She received Associates of Arts from Miami Dade College.

She is a recipient of the Graduate Fellowship from NCECA- National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts for her research on projection mapping on ceramic forms. Currently holds the title of Curatorial Fellow with Stay Home Gallery and Visiting Assistant Professor at Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, PA.



The Mind of an Author: THE BIG LIE.

Wednesday, April 7 · 9:00–9:40 a.m.

Jose Quintero, science fiction author, will relate the role of the big lie and science fiction. The big lie is: “The existence of Earth is an innocent fiction.” The cognoscenti of the alien planet, Clidim, cultivate this lie to suppress knowledge of the actual existence of Earth. The lie results in the diaspora of 128 of Clidim’s astronauts (*The Garish Sun*, 2005) and three secret enclaves (*The Earth Will Groan*, 2011; *The Cosmic Lotus*, 2013; and *Heaven’s First Home*, 2017.)

Born in the Panama Canal Zone. Served in the United States Navy. Employed at Miami Dade College, Kendall Campus since 2013.

Also author of “*The Arithmetic of Ordered Strings*” and “*Pascal’s Clock*”.



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MDC Dance

Dance Composition and Improvisation/DAA 2611

Wednesday, April 7 · 10:00–10:40 a.m.

Florida Free? The American Dream

A student-initiated Dance Film series presented by the Dance Composition students, centered around the exploration and emotional context of land gentrification, freedom, ocean acidification, and litter. The series educates, generates awareness, and explores action steps surrounding climate action issues. The program is produced and directed by Miami Dade College Dance Majors.

Michelle Grant-Murray – Associate Professor

- N'Dia Wright – **Big White Room**
- Aaliyah Wright – **Restoration**
- Farrah Ginsberg – **Litter in the Water**
- Adonis Millins – **Genesis of Nomi**
- Gabriela Acosta – **Let Me Grow**

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Steve Kronen • Author

Wednesday, April 7 • 11:00–11:40 a.m.

Steve Kronen is the author of three books of poetry, *Empirical Evidence*, *Splendor* and *Homage to Mistress Oppenheimer*. A recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship and three Florida Individual Artist fellowships his work has appeared in *New Republic*, *Poetry*, *The American Scholar*, *The Paris Review*, and in other prestigious publications. He is the faculty librarian at West Campus.



***Miambiance* Panel Discussion**

Moderated by the Volume 31 Staff

Wednesday, April 7 · Noon–12:50 p.m.

This is a student-centered event, where the Editors-in-Chief of Volumes 27–30 of *Miambiance*, the Kendall Campus’ award-winning literature and arts magazine, discuss “being part of the experience” in a leadership role while designing, illustrating, and publishing their respective issues.

Guest panelists: (left to right)

- Valentina Tzvetanov
- Marcos Tzvetanov
- Hannah Watts
- Gabriela Azeem-Angel



John Frazier: How Art Can Change the World: A Personal Journey

Wednesday, April 7 · 1:00–2:15 p.m.

MDC Art History Professor John Frazier is a world renowned non-Western cultural expert who works with the United Nations, Walt Disney Company, Louvre Museum, Smithsonian and U.S. Department of Education. Frazier has traveled the world working with disenfranchised populations and helping people educate their youth, including the Baka Pygmies of Central Africa, Ibo of Nigeria, Sudanese refugees in Chad, Rwandan orphans in Kenya, Vodou practitioners in Haiti, rape survivors in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Mexican street artists. Frazier's educational programs have impacted more than 1.5 million children, 65,000 teachers, and 15,000 refugees. Professor Frazier will discuss how he learned to use the arts to change the world.



Aesthetics & Reality with Allen McPhee

Wednesday, April 7 · 3:00–4:15 p.m.

If you think about it, everything has a sense of beauty or ugliness. Whether you are talking about the sky, plants, people, paintings, or mathematics and biology, they all have an aesthetic experience. In this presentation, Professor McPhee will argue for the view that aesthetics/beauty is a fundamental part of reality. Believe it or not.



Arts & Letters Day Committee

Co-Chairs of Arts & Letters Day

Tony Chirinos

Rita Fernandez-Sterling

Leo Walz

Department Chairpersons

James Broderick, *Performing Arts and Industries*

William Murphy, *English and Communications*

Bonnie Seeman *Chair, Arts and Philosophy*

Michelle Grant-Murray, *Dance Coordinator*

Artistic Director of Jubilation Dance Ensemble

Aaron H. Alpern, *Theater Program Coordinator*

John Frazier, *Visual Arts*

Arts & Letters Day Poster contest

Sean Lim, 1st Place (Covid-19 Safety)

Hunter Glenn, 2nd Place (Shopping's a Pleasure)

Michael Garcia, 3rd Place

Special thanks to:

Pascale Charlot, *Kendall Campus President*

David Dimattio, *Faculty Dean*

Jorge Cuellar, *Associate Dean of Faculty*

Brian A. Stokes, *Sr. Director of Campus Administration*

Russell Kaufman, *Kendall Campus CIO*

Kesia Vazquez, *Dean of Students*

Dianne Valdivia, *Campus Director Career
& Advisement Services*

Ashton Hartley, *Director of Student Life*

Irene Muñoz, *Director of Public Affairs*

Christine Llorente Cardenas and the
Graphic Department Staff

Duane Summers, and members of Miami Music Revolution
(MMR) for help with sound engineering

And the many staff members and students who
worked tirelessly behind the scenes in order to make
Arts & Letters Day a very special and memorable event.