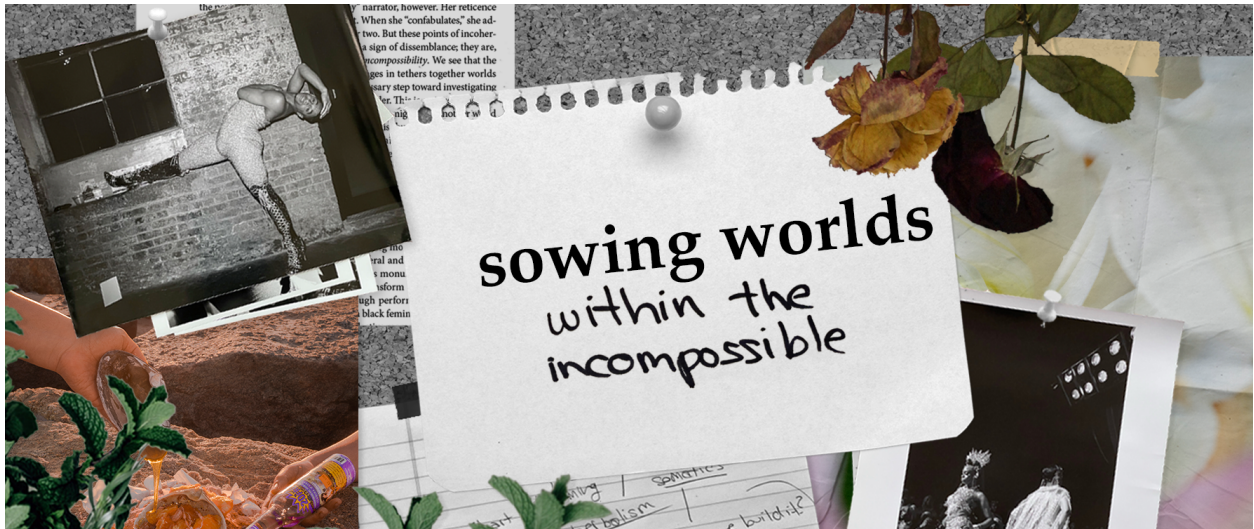


Contact: Nathalie von Veh
Resident Storyteller
nvonveh@wpadc.org



sowing worlds within the impossible
January 21–March 11, 2023

(January 11, 2023) Washington Project for the Arts is pleased to present *sowing worlds within the impossible*, organized by photographer **Giancarlo Montes Santangelo**. An exercise in worldbuilding, the project emulates a queer community space consisting of an exhibition, featuring artwork by three queer artists, and a series of programs. The exhibition includes artwork by **Amarise Carreras**, **Nelson Morales**, and **Shan Wallace**, who play with the tension between the everyday and the fantastical. Alongside their artwork, the installation functions as a place to come inside and read, look, gather, dream, learn, and heal.

Throughout February and March, queer practitioners will share their knowledge about plant medicine, somatic healing, community organizing, fabulation and play, and the history of queer community-building during a series of free events and workshops.

sowing worlds within the impossible considers the central question: *how do queer people imagine and sustain life?* The project borrows Tavia Nyong'o's term of the "impossible" to describe something that both can and cannot be, something between what we have and what we need, and something to investigate worlds outside of our present order.

These themes are central to artist-organizer Giancarlo Montes Santangelo's work as a visual artist and researcher. In his own practice, he builds worlds with photographic archives and investigates the various ways that colonial histories are indexed in these images and how they settle into the present. Queering these images and considering the ways in which we navigate their afterlives is crucial to his practice. For this project, he invites other artists and practitioners to join in and consider the historical and present ways that queer people imagine and build the impossible.

Gallery hours are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 1–6 pm at 2124 8th St NW, Washington, DC 20001.

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

Languaging the Apocalypse, Unlanguaging the World: Queer and Indigenous Poetics of Destruction and Survival

Workshop with Fargo Nissim Tbakhi
Saturday, February 11 at 2:00 pm (in-person)

[RSVP Here](#)

"Abolition of Policing" — A Critical Theory of Police Power

Book Session with Heal Da Homies
Saturday, February 18 at 1:30 pm (in-person)

[RSVP Here](#)

Queer Life Force: Breathwork + Embodiment Practices

Guided by Mel-Xóchitl
Saturday, February 25 from 1:00–2:15 pm (in-person)

[RSVP Here](#)

ABOUT THE PARTICIPATING VISUAL ARTISTS

Nelson Morales is a photographer whose work focuses on issues of gender, body, identity, and sexual diversity. His work has been included in various collective and individual exhibitions in countries such as: Germany, Netherlands, Spain, El Salvador, Canada, Greece, Portugal, Malaysia, India, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Poland, Cuba, United States, and Mexico. In 2021, he won the *PATROCINIOS* scholarship award from the Jumex Foundation. Morales' work has been published in *Aperture*, *The New York Times*, *Vogue Italia*, *Vogue México*, *Vice*, *Mexicanísimo*, *TETU*, *Loeil de la photographie*, *The British Journal of Photography*, *Musée Magazine*, and *Der Greif* and he has published two books: *Musas Muxe* (2018) and *Fantastic Woman* (2019). He was recently one of the protagonists of the documentary *MUXES*, produced by HBO in 2022.

SHAN Wallace is a nomadic award-winning visual artist, photographer, and educator from East Baltimore, MD. She is inspired by the nuances of day-to-day life in Baltimore, not as fixed narratives, but as a multiplicity of experiences. SHAN has received recognition from publications like the *Baltimore Beat* for 'Best Solo Show,' the *Washington City Paper* for 'Best Photographer,' and the Association of Health Care Journalists for her photojournalism piece "Losing Conner's Mind" in the *Atavist Magazine*. SHAN's work is in both public and private collections across the United States including Baltimore Museum of Art, Reginald F. Lewis Art Museum, and the New Gallery of Modern Art.

Amarise Carreras is a photo-based performance artist, utilizing photography for both documenting and observing while engaging in performative conversations. The results are images of quotidian moments and narratives about history, ancestry, altars, and still lifes that are alive. The performative aspect is referential directly to a gentle and deeply personal connection to the Boricua women that raised them, and their passed down knowledge, medicine, and traditions. Amarise received their BFA in Photography and Film from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2018. They are currently published in *Aperture Magazine*, *Nueva Luz*, and have shown in galleries such as Candela Gallery, Side x Side Contemporary, and Transmitter.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Giancarlo Montes Santangelo, native of the DC Metropolitan area, graduated from SUNY Purchase in 2018 with a BFA in photography. In 2019, Giancarlo exhibited his photographs alongside Paul Mpagi Sepuya as part of the Whitney Biennial. In 2020, he published his first monograph, *Improvising Sight Lines* with Monolith Editions – a book that weaves together images and writing and is held in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the MoMA. Giancarlo was recently awarded the Aperture x Google Creator Labs Photo Fund and completed residencies with Tangent Projects and TILT Institute for the Contemporary Image. He is currently an Image Equity Fellow with Google.

ABOUT WASHINGTON PROJECT FOR THE ARTS (WPA)

[Washington Project for the Arts \(WPA\)](#) is a platform for collaborative and experimental artist-organized projects, dialogue, and advocacy. Artists curate and organize all of our programming—as an extension of their own intellectual research. Their projects can take many forms, from conversational dinners, exhibitions, field trips, film screenings, grass-roots organizing meetings, and installations, to lectures, performances, podcasts, publications, symposia, workshops, and more.

SUPPORTERS

WPA is supported by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; Hickok Cole; National Endowment for the Arts; William S. Paley Foundation; Greater Washington Community Foundation; Goethe-Institut; Emily Hall Tremain Foundation (EHTF); Eaton Workshop; Terra Foundation for American Art; The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation; JBG SMITH; Willkie Farr & Gallagher; Squire Patton Boggs; Brookfield Properties; DAVIS Construction; and many other generous foundations, corporations, and individuals. WPA is supported in part by an American Rescue Plan Act grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support general operating expenses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.