

Roberto Sifuentes
Interdisciplinary Performance Artist
Professor/Chair
School of the Art Institute of Chicago

EDUCATION

Trinity College, Hartford, CT
Bachelor of Arts, Theater and Dance, 1989

PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC POSITIONS

School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), 2008-Present (*Tenured in Fall 2012*)

- Professor, Department of Performance 2017-Present
- Associate Professor, 2012-2017
- Assistant Professor, 2008-2012

Chair of Performance, SAIC

2020-Present, 2012 – 2015, 2017/18,

- Responsibility for vision, strategy and administration of Department, including budget, teaching schedules, faculty hiring, admissions and thesis show curation. Organizer of departmental Program Review and Accreditation visits by external assessors.

Elected member of SAIC Faculty Business Senate

2020-Present, 2014-2017

Chair, SAIC Faculty Business Senate
2017

- Senate Chair is leader of the key school committee concerned with academic standards, quality of education and the morale of faculty, staff and students. The Senate Chair also oversees multiple sub-committees including Fiscal Affairs, Curriculum, Climate and Exhibitions in the context of shared governance principles.

Artist-Teacher, MFA Visual Arts Program

Vermont College of Fine Arts

January 2011 - Present

Elena Diaz-Verson Amos Eminent Scholar in Latin American Studies

Columbus State University, Columbus GA.

Spring 2008

The purpose of the Latin American Studies Program is to expand international education opportunities for CSU students and enhance understanding between U.S. and Latino cultures. The cornerstone of the program is the Elena Diaz-Verson Amos Eminent Scholar in Latin American Studies. In this program, CSU brings a visiting ^{[[}professor to CSU every year to teach and engage in outreach programming.

Artistic Director, Trinity/LaMaMa Performing Arts Program NYC

Trinity College Hartford, CT in residence at LaMaMa Experimental Theater Club NYC
A core off campus program of the Theater and Dance Department. AD determines curriculum, student recruitment, faculty hiring, guest artist and teachers, and administers the budget with the Admin Director.
2001- 2006

Visiting Lecturer, Trinity College, Hartford CT
Spring 2002, Spring 2003

PROFESSIONAL ARTISTIC POSITION

Founding Member and Artistic Collaborator

La Pocha Nostra Performance Troupe, San Francisco, CA
1993- 2016

Co-creating performances, community projects, installations, performance pedagogy, and lectures with performance artist Guillermo Gomez-Peña and many others. La Pocha Nostra has presented performances and installations at over 800 venues across the US, Latin America, and Europe.

PUBLICATIONS

“Exercises for Rebel Artists: Radical Performance Pedagogy”

By Guillermo Gómez-Peña and Roberto Sifuentes.

This new book outlines in detail the La Pocha Nostra method’s unique convergence of embodied theory, performative activism and radical pedagogy accessible for both the university classroom and independent theater groups.

August 2011, Publisher: Routledge, London/New York.

“Temple of Confessions: Mexican Beasts and Living Santos”

Powerhouse Books, 1997.

Co-Authored with Guillermo Gómez-Peña

Selected Journals:

“In Permanent Process of Reinvention”

Guillermo Gómez-Peña, Roberto Sifuentes and Kimberlee Pérez pause to process La Pocha Nostra’s permanently unfolding methodology and pedagogy.

Performance Research Journal 14(2) On Training, Taylor and Francis LTD, 2009.

Numerous references to the artwork and La Pocha Nostra. Bibliography available.

COLLECTIONS

Smithsonian Archives of American Art – Collected Artist, 2018-Present

The Archives of American Art is the world's pre-eminent and most widely used research center dedicated to collecting, preserving, and providing access to primary sources that document the history of the visual arts in America. The Archives of American Art collects, preserves, and makes available primary sources documenting the history of the visual arts in the United States.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, NYU 2000-Present

*A Consortium of institutions, artists, scholars, and activists dedicated to exploring the relationship between expressive behavior (broadly construed as performance) and social and political life in the Americas. Member
Advisory Committee Member 2014*

Links Hall Performance Space, Chicago 2011 – 2015

Board of Directors, Chair of the Programming Committee

Chicago Artist Coalition – BOLT residency program,

*Bolt Residency seeks to create a supportive environment that promotes and evolves artists' professional and artistic practices; providing ample space for the development of groundbreaking work
Artist mentor*

Ford Theater Foundation, Los Angeles, Community Bridges Program Advisory Committee Member, Nov 2006- 2008

Committee advises the directors and curators regarding programming, marketing strategies, and community outreach for the Community Bridges Program at the John Anson Ford Theater in Los Angeles, CA.

SELECTED PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

Smithsonian Archives of American Art, Washington DC., 2018

Invited Lecture/performance in conversation with Smithsonian National Archive Collector Josh Franco.

The Art of Networked Practice: International symposium

Performance and Lecture Singapore/Chicago 2018

The Art of Networked Practice: International symposium, keynotes, live internet performances. A co-presentation of the School of Art, Design & Media at Nanyang Technological University

Roberto Sifuentes
Curriculum Vitae

(Singapore), LASALLE College of the Arts (Singapore) & the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Department of Performance (US)

OPEN ENGAGEMENT / Social Practice conference, Chicago 2017

Open Engagement (OE) is an annual artist-led conference dedicated to expanding the dialogue around and creating a site of care for the field of socially engaged art. The conference highlights the work of transdisciplinary artists, activists, students, scholars, community members, and organizations working within the complex social issues and struggles of our time.

Kaywon University, Seoul, South Korea 2016

Invited Artist Lecture

SAIC, Numerous Panels and Presentations 2008-Present

Northwestern University – Visiting Artist Lecture, Dept. of Performance Studies

Links Hall, Chicago, 2011/2012

Juror on the review panel for the 2011/2012 LinkUP Artist-in-Residence program.

National Review of Live Art, Glasgow Scotland 2010

Panelist “Crossing Zones”. Artist who make collaborative work talk about the insights of international creative exchange.

IN>TIME Performance Festival and Symposium, Chicago Cultural Center, 2010

Panelist “Sustaining a professional practice.”

El Arte es Acción: 2do Encuentro Internacional, Teatro Valle Inclán, Madrid, Spain 2009

Panelist with Ron Athey and Guillermo Gomez-Peña

Propositions: Performance Lecture Series

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2008

Lecture/Presentation

Intersection IV Conference, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

“Multiculturalism in the 21st Century” April 2006

Presenter

Ford Theater Foundation Symposium, John Anson Ford Theater, Los Angeles, CA

“Cultivating Audiences in a Poly-Cultural, Post-New World,” October 2006

Workshop session leader

Midtown International Theater Festival, New York, NY

“Politics & Culture: Contemporary Influences on Latino Performance,” 2005

Panelist

Performance Studies International Conference 12, Queen Mary University, London, England “Performing Rights,” 2006
Presentation with Guillermo Gomez-Peña

Performance and Pedagogy Conference, Penn State University
“Performative Sites,” 2000
Lecture/Demo with Guillermo Gomez-Peña

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, “Abromowitz Lecture Series,” Boston, MA
1999
Lecture/Demo with Guillermo Gomez-Peña

University of Wisconsin, “Hilldale Lecture Series,” Madison, WI, 1998.
Lecture/Demo with Guillermo Gomez-Peña

ISEA (International Symposium of Electronic Arts), Chicago, IL, 1997.
Performance with Guillermo Gomez-Peña

ARS Electronica Symposium, Linz, Austria, 1997
Lecture/Demo with Guillermo Gomez-Peña

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS/MASTER CLASSES/ARTIST RESIDENCIES

2019 Asian Arts Council Individual Fellowship
6 week Residency at A.Farm San.Art residency and other venues in Viet Nam

Trensa Negra – Creative residency San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas Mexico
-2015. Solo workshop for local/national artists and performance.

La Pocha Nostra Residency / Performance
University of North Carolina Spring 2015

La Pocha Nostra Summer Professional Performance School
Hemispheric Institute Encuentro / Montreal, 2014
Mexico DF, 2013
Guanajuato MX, 2013
The Performance Art Institute, San Francisco, CA Summer 2011
La Perrera, Oaxaca Mexico, 2010
University of Evora, Portugal, 2008
Museum of Contemporary Art, Tucson Arizona, Summer 2007/Winter 2009
Oaxaca Mexico, 2006

La Perrera, Oaxaca Mexico, August 2011

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One-week developmental residency with Gomez-Peña to create new performances for 2011/2012.

Santa Fe Art Institute, New Mexico 2010
Writing residency to work on Exercises for Rebel Artists, Routledge.

York University, Summer Institute in Theater Studies, Toronto 2010
Two-week intensive artist-in-residence workshop for MA/PhD students at York.

National Review of Live Art/Glasgow, Glasgow Scotland, 2010
Pocha Nostra Master class

Columbia College, Chicago IL. Oct. 2009, April 2010
Two part residency including a five day workshop with community artists and Columbia students/faculty; premier of the trio version of ‘Corpo Illicito.’ Second phase of residency included a workshop and performance at “Gender Fusions festival” April 2010.

Occidental College, Los Angeles CA. Nov. 2009
Guest Artist sponsored by Cultural Studies Program, Art History/Visual Arts and Critical Theory/Social Justice Departments. Lecture and interdisciplinary studio critiques.

Frie University of Berlin/Future Facts Conference, Berlin 2008
One week Pocha Nostra intensive workshop

National Review of Live Arts, Glasgow, Scotland 2008
Artist in residence, Pocha Nostra conducted a term of their Winter School

Arnolfini, Bristol, England 2007
Commission/Residency for Pocha Nostra to work with 15 professional international artists toward the creation of a new piece entitled “New Barbarian Collection Fall ’07.” La Pocha Nostra.

University of Connecticut, Storrs CT, 2007
Residency/Theater workshop with Guillermo Gomez-Peña

Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, 6th Encuentro “Corpolíticas / Body Politics in the Americas: ^[SEP]Formations of Race, Class and Gender,”^[SEP]
Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2007
Residency/performance workshop with Guillermo Gomez-Peña

Michigan State University, East Lansing MI, 2007
Residency/performance workshop with Guillermo Gomez-Peña

University of Utah/Pickle Company, Salt Lake City, 2007

Residency/performance workshop with Guillermo Gomez-Peña

Center for Performance Research, University of Wales Aberystwyth, Wales, UK
Master of Arts Summer Program 1998 and 2006

Residency/performance workshop with Guillermo Gomez-Peña

Live Art Development Agency, London England, 2006

Residency/performance workshop with Guillermo Gomez-Peña

Talleres de la Luz/Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Oaxaca, Oaxaca, Mexico, 2006

Residency/performance workshop with Guillermo Gomez-Peña

Highways Performance Space, Los Angeles, CA 2006

Residency/performance workshop with Guillermo Gomez-Peña

University of Massachusetts at Amherst, 2005

Class Lecture

Houston Community College System, Southwest College Department of Art,
Houston, TX, 2005

Weeklong residency including 2 performance workshops, lecture and performance.

Emerson College, MA Theater program, Boston, MA, 2004

Performance Workshop and Lecture

Brown University, Theater Department, Providence, RI, 2004

Performance Workshop

Amherst College, Amherst, MA, 2004

Performance Workshop

Hampshire College, Amherst, MA, 2005 & 2004

Performance Workshop and Lecture

Three Rivers Arts Festival/Art Up! Pittsburgh, PA

Weeklong professional level Pocha Nostra workshop with local, national and international artists

Prisma Forum, Oaxaca, Mexico

Weeklong performance workshop with local, Mexican, and international artists

Jumpstart Performance Company, San Antonio, TX, 2004

Residency/performance workshop with Guillermo Gomez-Peña

Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, FL, 1999

Master artist in Residence, with Guillermo Gomez-Peña and Sara Shelton Mann

Headlands Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA 1994
Creative residency with Guillermo Gomez-Peña

Banff Center, Alberta, Canada 1994
Creative residency with Guillermo Gomez-Peña

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

HBO documentary “Americanos: Latino Life in the United States”
Produced by Nick Athas & Edward James Olmos, 2000
Footage and interviews featuring “El Mexterminator” performance installation.

A World of Art: Works in Progress
Produced by Oregon Public Broadcasting in association with Oregon State University.
1997.
Footage and Interviews documenting the “Temple of Confessions” performance installation.

RADIO DOCUMENTARY

NPR New American Radio Series “Temple of Confessions” 1996

PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCES AND INSTALLATIONS

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

1. **‘CHIC’-ANO PUNK TO POCHA** 2019
 - Smithsonian Archive of American Arts – Lecture/Performance of Roberto Sifuentes’ papers as they enter the collection of the Smithsonian Archive of American Art. Lunch Series.

#EXSANGUINATION 2016-PRESENT

Collaboration with new media artist Jon Cates.

- Oklahoma Gallery, 2018
- Art of Networked Practices International Symposium, Singapore/Chicago/Mexico 2017
- Chicago Premier Defibrillator Gallery Chicago Oct 2016

Official/UnOfficial Voting Station 2016
Collaboration with Aram Han Sifuentes

- Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Nov 2016

“RECUMULATIONS” 2011

A digital installation and performance. Collaborators: Claudia Hart and Edmund Campion. The Black and White Project Space, New York City, October 2011. Chicago premier March 2012.

“14 UnNatural Acts”s 2003-2005

- **Performance Space 122**, New York, NY
- **Heinman Theater**, HCC Southwest & Central Colleges, Houston, TX
- **Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics**, New York University, NY
- **2 Gyrllz Interactive Language Festival**-Pacific Northwest College of Art, Portland, OR
- **Trinity College**, Hartford, CT

SELECTED PERFORMANCES AND INSTALLATIONS

COLLABORATIONS WITH LA POCHA NOSTRA/GUILLERMO GOMEZ-PEÑA

“PSYCHOMAGIC ACTIONS FOR A WORLD GONE WRONG” 2013-2016

- **Venice International Performance Festival**, Venice Italy 2016
- **University of North Carolina**, 2015
- **Hemispheric Institute**, Montreal Canada, 2014
- **Festival Cervantino**, Mexico 2014
- **Lone Star Performance Festival**, Houston 2014

“CORPO INSURRECTO” 2012 – 2014

“CORPO ILLICITO” 2009 - 2011

- **Liverpool Biennial/ Bluecoat Art Space**, UK
- **SOMARTS Arts space**, San Francisco
- **Columbia College**, Chicago
- **X Havana Biennial**, Cuba
- **Three Rivers Arts Festival/Art Up!** Pittsburgh, PA
- **Prisma Forum**, Oaxaca, Mexico

“MAPA CORPO” 2006 – 2009

- **El Arte es Acción: 2do Encuentro Internacional**, Teatro Valle Inclán, Madrid, Spain
- **Detroit Institute of Arts, Rivera Court**, Detroit MI
- **Living Word Festival, Theater Artaud**, San Francisco
- **Future Facts Festival, Hau Swie Theater**, Berlin, Germany
- **Performance Studies International 12**, “Performing Rites,” London, England
- **Trinity College**, Dublin, Ireland

- **Highways Performance Space**, Los Angeles, CA
- **Michigan State University**, East Lansing, MI
- **National Review of Live Arts, New Moves Festival**, Glasgow, Scotland
- **Pickle Company/University of Utah**, Salt Lake City
- **Festival of Northern Norway**, Harstad Norway
- **Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics**, 6th Encuentro “Corpolíticas / Body Politics in the Americas: ^[L]Formations of Race, Class and Gender;” ^[SEP] Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- **University of Connecticut, Mobius Theater**, Storrs, CT
- **Center for Contemporary Art, National Performance Network**, New Orleans, LA

“THE POCHA NOSTRA PERFORMANCE INTERVENTION BRIGADE”

ANTI – Contemporary Arts Festival, Kuopio, Finland 2009

ANTI is an international contemporary arts festival presenting site-specific works made for public space.

“DIVINO CORPO” 2008

- **Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art**, Toronto Canada
- **National Review of Live Art, New Territories**, Artist in Residence, Glasgow, Scotland

“THE NEW BARBARIANS AT THE DE YOUNG MUSEUM”

De Young Museum, San Francisco, CA 2008.

“THE NEW BARBARIANS COLLECTION: *extreme fashion show and human auction*” Nov 2007

Collaboration with 16 local artists on the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in the UK. Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol, England

“ARCHI-FRONTERAS” *The Chicanarian-Sudaca trading co.*” 2005

- **Public Plaza del Pilar Nuevo** produced by **Galeria Artificios**, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Canary Islands.

“Post Mexico in X-paña” 2005

- **Espacio Versátil, ARCO International Arts Festival**, Madrid, Spain

“Epcot El Alamo” 2004

- **Jumpstart Performance Company**, San Antonio, TX

“Immaculate Deceptions” 2003

- **The Lab**, San Francisco, CA

“Museum of Fetishized Identities” 1999-2000

- **Hemispheric Institute for Performance and Politics**, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- **Penn State University**, Pennsylvania, PA
- **Center for Performance Research**, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Wales, UK

“Borderscape 2000” 1997-1999

- **New Works for New World creative residency**, University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA
- **University of Wisconsin**, Madison, WI
- **Intersection Festival, New World Theater**, University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA
- **Solo Mio Festival Magic Theater**, San Francisco CA
- **Trinity College**, Hartford, CT
- **Performance Studies International Festival**, Center For Performance Research, Wales UK.

“El Mexterminator” 1996-2000

- **Inteatro ‘96 Festival**, Polverigi, Italy
- **Szene Festival**, Salzburg, Austria
- **Neutral Ground**, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada
- **Cherry Creek Arts Festival**, Denver, CO
- **Time Based Arts Festival**, Hull, England
- **International Symposium of Electronic Arts (ISEA conference)**, Randolph Street Gallery, Chicago, IL
- **SOMAR Gallery**, San Francisco, CA
- **El Museo del Barrio**, New York, NY
- **Detroit Institute of Arts, Rivera Court**, Detroit, MI
- **University of Puerto Rico**, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico
- **Museum of Contemporary Art**, Barcelona, Spain
- **Taos Talking Pictures Film Festival**, Taos, NM

“Mexican Cowboys and Crow Lowriders” 1996

- **Holter Museum**, Helena, MT

(in collaboration with Crow and Northern Cheyenne artists Susan Stewart, Tyler Medicine horse, and Bently Spang)

“The Shame Man and El Mexi-Can't meet the CyberVato at the Ethno-Cyberpunk trading post and curio shop on the electronic frontier” 1995

- **Diverse Works Art Space, MECA (Multicultural Education through Counseling and the Arts) & Rice University**, Houston, TX
(in collaboration with James Luna)

“The Dangerous Border Game Part II” 1996

- **Dance Place**, Washington D.C

(In collaboration with Silvana Straw, B. Stanley, Michelle Parkerson, Quique Aviles, and Christina King).

“The Dangerous Border Game” 1995-1996

- **Colorado Dance Festival**, Boulder, CO
- **University of New Mexico**, Las Cruces
- **"Stage Left" Series**, Kansas City, KS
- **Theater Artaud**, San Francisco, CA
- **Szene Festival**, Salzburg, Austria

“El Naftazteca: CyberAztec TV for 2000 AD” 1994

TV intervention broadcast live to over 5 million homes from the I-Ear studios at Rennsselaer Polytechnic Institute, NY (Created by Gómez-Peña and performed with Sifuentes in collaboration with filmmakers Brenda Miller, Adrienne Jennik & Philip Djwa); 1995: Re-broadcast to 2.5 million households

“Borderama” 1994-1995

- **Detroit Institute of Arts**, Detroit MI
- **Mark Taper Forum - Taper Two**, John Anson Ford Theater, Los Angeles, CA
- **NYU Performance Studies Conference**, New York, NY
- **Helsinki Act Festival**, Helsinki, Finland
- **Bay Front Theatre, Solo Mio Festival**, San Francisco, CA
- **The Moore Theater, Hopkins Center**, Dartmouth College, NH

“The Shame Man Meets El Mexi-Can't and the CyberVato in Chicago” 1994

- **The Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum**, Chicago, IL

“The Cruci-Fiction Project” 1994

- **Headlands Center for the Arts**, San Francisco, CA

“Temple of Confessions” 1994-1996

- **Scottsdale Center for the Arts**, Scottsdale, AZ
- **The Three Rivers Arts Festival**, Pittsburg, PA
- **Detroit Institute of Arts**, Detroit, MI
- **Bannister Art Gallery**, Providence, RI
- **Corcoran Gallery of Art**, Washington, D.C.

“The New World Border” 1993-1994

- **2o Festival Internacional de Performance, X-Teresa Arte Alternativo**, Mexico City
- **Olympic Arts Festival**, Atlanta, GA
- **MACLA**, San Jose, CA
- **Harn Museum**, Gainesville, FL
- **Dance Theater Workshop**, New York, NY

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- **Museum of Art**, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- **Center for Contemporary Arts**, New Orleans, LA
- **Banff Center, Alberta**, Canada
- **Scottsdale Center for the Arts**, Scottsdale, AZ
- **Cleveland Museum of Art**, Cleveland, OH
- **The Three Rivers Arts Festival**, Pittsburgh, PA