

TRIANGLE PROJECT



Choreographer Olga Barrios (Colombian/Canadian), performance artist/activist Coman Poon (Chinese-Canadian/Settler-immigrant) and musician/composer Edgardo Moreno present the Triangle Project, a cross-disciplinary and polyaesthetic artistic conversation across physical and technologically mediated distance, where three artists from three different latitudes send signals to each other in order to transmute the space between.

"The nature of human identity has shifted politically to a separation of natural place. This societal state with the environment can be seen as a root cause for the ecological degradation we are currently experiencing globally. These broken links amplify miscomprehension in turn exposing the fragility, vulnerability and longing for connection. A conundrum exists: how can we relearn desires to coexist within our natural world while the symbiotic relationship we share with other lifeforms critically informs the connections and disconnections on the horizon." - Fugitive Narratives, Hyde Park Arts Centre



We live in a world grappling with rapid change. Our cities, the land, our oceans, the sense of security and stability in our environments, are all under threat. This especially impacts upon our sense of "place", where our memories, history, geography, spirituality, stories and routines stand on shifting sands, controlled and yet forgotten, fragmented and absent, disappeared but alive in anonymity.

Our encounter reveals that our bodies are but a small piece of the earth. In fact, the microcosm of our lives echoes each others' and reflect the "larger body" - the Earth -upon which all life depends.

When we centre on the natural environment, we centre on ourselves. What borders are created, what fracturing of human and non-human ecologies, what violence perpetrated in the name of greed and ideology form easy counterpoints to acts of collective resistance to isolation, silence and ethically blind consumerism.

Despite the restrictions and exploitations of militarism and globalism, our movements, sounds and rituals continue to unfold. What are they? How do they re-invite us into community and symbiosis? Is there an artistic bridge of expression and witnessing that can trigger transformation and connection? Who will hear, see and feel us when we are not here? What of the ones before and after us? In the debris of exploding and imploding marginalization, how is art itself a living 'space between home(s)'?



WHO WE ARE

The **Triangle Collective** consists of Olga Barrios (Santa Marta, Colombia), Edgardo Moreno (Hamilton, Ontario) and Coman Poon (Toronto, Ontario).

Thus, **Olga Barrios** is a choreographer and dancer, original from Colombia, that came to Canada in 2007. At this moment, she is living on the Caribbean coast of Colombia, working with community projects, and serving as guest professor in a University dance program and working in diverse arts exchange projects in Canada. www.olgabarrios.com

Edgardo Moreno is a Hamilton-based composer, musician and sound designer, that came from Santiago, Chile with his parents as a child in 1974. He grew up in Toronto and has worked as a composer creating scores for contemporary dance and films. www.musicamoreno.com

Coman Poon is a Toronto-based interdisciplinary artist (visual and performance artist, arts writer, dramaturg, theatre maker and dance artist) of Cantonese Chinese background, coming from Hong Kong when he was 10 years old. He is a seasoned community developer and change-maker that also works as a consultant in arts and culture and social and human service sectors.

Each one of us, has come to Canada at different moments in our lives and for varied reasons. The artistic and trans/personal conversations we are having today unravels and interweaves the different paths and realities that we have traveled.

“How we are at the small scale is how we are at the large scale...decentralized work requires more trust building on the front end, but ultimately it is easier, more fluid”

- Adrienne Maree Brown, Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds



WHY WE EXIST

We, the Triangle Collective, are three artists who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our collective creations. Our collaboration comes from a joint commitment to embarking on an intercultural, intergenerational and interdisciplinary arts encounter that places primacy on our bodies, stories and connection to unknown/interstitial space. The politicized process of how we come together is both an expression of our horizontal practice as well as the acknowledgement of a true encounter across the distances of time and geography. Employing interdisciplinarity, we seek to presence the “macroscopic” through the manifestation of experience.

We are interested in growing holistic encounters, artistically comingling personal-political, cultural spiritual concerns, passions and insights. We conscientiously equitize our varyingly reflective and reflexive exchanges which stem from the conceptual and horizontalized dynamic of three constantly shifting but connected points/perspectives in space/place.



The Triangle Project was presented as first stage (work-in-progress), at the Vanguardia Dance Festival 2019 in April at the Aki Theatre in Toronto. The development of the work started in July 2018 with a first physical reunion, and then it has had a long-distance development. The project has taken place between the cities of Santa Marta (Colombia), Hamilton (Ontario) and Toronto (Ontario). The first encounter and workshop, after the long-distance process was a week before the presentation at the Vanguardia Fest. The project continues in development with the projection of new elements such as mapping and live projection.

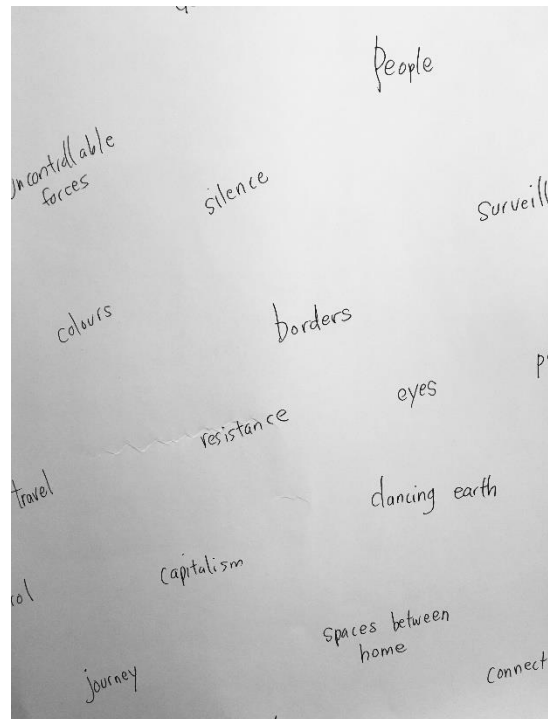
HOW WE WORK

In our research and development process, we creatively activate an interstitial realm that is bridged by digital platforms such as Facebook Messenger, WeTransfer, Dropbox, Google Drive and SoundCloud. Our ongoing artistic and information exchanges surface how our identities and geopolitics are connected in relation to a complex of social and environmental injustices that affect us and that inform our collaborative practice.

Our creations bring together the artistic disciplines of dance, music (soundscape, sound design) and visual art performance (ritual). As an inter-arts collective, our collaboration emerged from an initiating commission by Vanguardia Dance Projects, to participate in their 2019 Festival, which was focussed on the conversation of dance with different artistic disciplines.

Our latest live art/performance work, ***Triangle Project: Montreal***, focalizes on the connection of three individuals, from three different cultures and geographies, and three arts disciplines, in (re)union at one place and space, at MAI Montreal.

Refracting contemporary dance practice in the digital age, we embrace a creation process that steps outside of the studio-centred choreographic approach, allowing the experimental and experiential nature of our encounters to generate and unfold organically. Thus far, as we continue to migrate and work across the Americas, our artistic exchanges have taken the form of dance film, music composition, visual art, soundscape and performance-for-camera, spoken text and poetry, dictated more by responsive inspiration to each other and to local context than our respective arenas of artistic expertise. This intimately distal and adaptively embodied process, coupled with the bookends of live encounter and dramaturgical collaboration in real time and space, has produced a unique intermodal arts methodology and result we are excited to share and propagate.



LINKS TO SOME VIDEOS

Video exploration Edgardo's sound response to Coman's video in Orilla

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2xl6YDw9rc&feature=youtu.be>

Video dance exploration- signal send by Olga from Santa Marta to Canada, to receive response from the north

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOYMnwqgmSc>

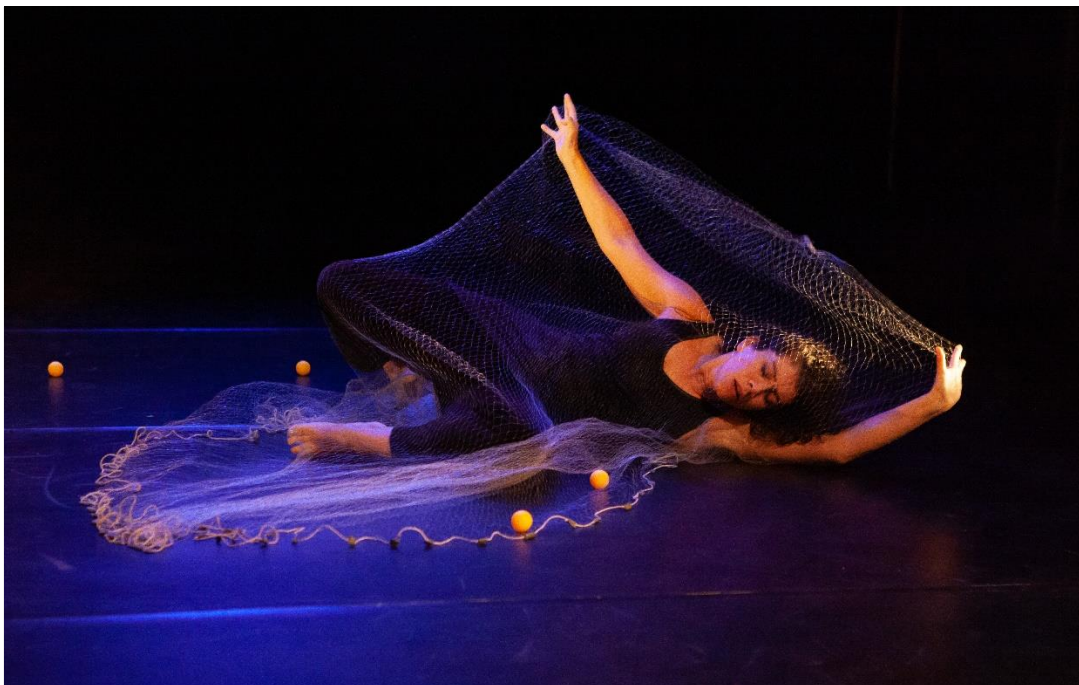
Video of performance at the Vanguardia Fest 2019

<https://youtu.be/G3nZPgpev4k>

IMAGES OF PERFORMANCE PRESENTATION

@ VANGUARDIA FEST 2019

AKI STUDIO THEATRE TORONTO









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