

Vanessa Garcia
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Thekrane.com
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Education

Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts, 2001

Graduated **Summa Cum Laude** and **Phi Beta Kappa**

Double Major: English (concentration in Writing)

and Art History (concentration in Visual Arts)

Studied Under: Mary Gordon, Caryl Phillips, Peter Carey, Elizabeth Peyton, Archie Rand and others (references available upon request).

University of Miami, Fl.

MFA Creative Writing, 2009

Studied Under: A. Manette Ansay, Edwidge Danticat, and Jane Alison (references available upon request).

University of California, Irvine

PhD, Literature with a focus in Creative Non-Fiction

Currently enrolled

Expected graduation, 2014/2015

Freelance Writing

- **Copywriting** -- Republica Ad Agency, Miami Fl. As well as other agencies. 2008- present. Copy includes work for Burger King; Pepsico; Adrienne Arsht and the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, as well as The Children's Trust, and AcuMedSpa,etc.
- **Freelance Journalism** – Miami, Fl & NYC. 2004-present
Articles featured in **The Miami Herald; The Miami New Times; Florida Inside Out Magazine; Miami Art Guide; NYArts Magazine www.nyartsmagazine.com ; House King Magazine; The Southern Arts Journal; Irreverent Homemaker <http://irreverenthomemaker.com>; Cravings of South Florida; The Rumpus; The Lead Miami Beach www.theleadmiamibeach.com; Travel Writing for www.mondoexplorer.com; The Southern Humanities Review <http://media.cla.auburn.edu/english/shr/index.cfm>, etc.
Write about Art, literature, lifestyle, culture, travel, and other beats.
Also write Websites for Design Companies like Gianfranco.us.**
- **SparkNotes**, New York, New York. 2001-2002. Wrote Study Guides for Arrowsmith by Sinclair Lewis; The Big Sleep by Raymond Chandler; and The Kitchen God's Wife by Amy Tan, among others.

Teaching

- **First Pages Workshop, Instructor.** Miami, Fl. Nov. 2009 - present. Teach one month Intensive workshops for beginning and intermediate writers. Sponsored by AE District in Miami as well as by The Krane, Inc. More info here: <http://thekrane.com/first-pages.html>

- **Johns Hopkins CTY Program, TA.** Lancaster, PA. Summer 2009. Assisted in teaching a course called *Crafting the Essay* for talented youth during a summer intensive sponsored and created by Johns Hopkins University.
- **University of Miami, TA.** Miami, Fl. 2007-2009 Teach Eng. 209: Intro to Creative Writing.
- **Belen Jesuit Preparatory School, Miami, Fl.** 2006. Taught High School Art History and Middle School Visual Art.
- **Miami Dade Community College, Miami, Fl.** 2005 Taught writing and composition at the downtown Wolfson Campus Writing Center.
- **Tutoring, Miami, Fl.** 2004-present. Tutor students in Writing, Art, History, Humanities, English Literature, and other subjects. One and one, as well as in small groups.

Other Work

- **Luis Adelantado Gallery, Miami, Fl.** 2006. Worked as a Gallery Assistant for contemporary art gallery in the Wynwood Art District. Helped construct shows and with administrative work.
- **Princeton Harvard Cuba Conference, Princeton, New Jersey.** April, 2006. Invited to Princeton to participate and take part as an artist/journalist/observer.
- **Frieze Magazine, Art Basel, Miami Beach, Fl.** Winter 2005. I worked their booth for them. www.frieze.com. Magazine is based in London.
- **Personal Assistant to Caryl Phillips (<http://www.carylphillips.com>), New York, New York & Delray Beach, Fl.** 2001- 2004. Assisted with research, teaching, conference planning, etc. Worked particularly on research for his novel **Dancing in The Dark** about Black Vaudeville Star Bert Williams, which was short-listed for the **Booker** and won the **Commonwealth Writer's Prize** for best book. Also helped to plan, as well as attended the following programs while working for Phillips:
 - **Literature of the Middle Passage, Ghana, Africa.** Assisted in taking a college course to Accra and Elmina to study where the Middle Passage, and the literature that arose out of the forced African Diaspora, began.
 - **Bellagio Writers and Scholars Conference 2003, Bellagio, Italy.** Participant in conference entitled: The Caribbean in New York and Paris.

Published Fiction & Other Lit Journal Publication

- **Review of Sherman Alexie's *War Dances*,** Southern Humanities Review (Auburn University). Spring/Summer, 2010.
- **Sticks & Stones -- (Poetry) Shady Side Review,** Fall 2009, 1st Issue (The Whirligig Installment). www.shadysidereview.com
- **Canopies -- (Poetry) Damselfly Press,** Oct 2008, Fifth Issue <http://www.damselflypress.net/>

Theatre

- **Two Islands: Island Blogosphere & The Jewish Nun** – Summer 2010. Show entitled *Island Blogosphere*, part of Two Islands, is about a young ABC (American Born Cuban) and her connection with bloggers inside Cuba who are risking their lives for human rights and freedom of speech on the island. Showed: **Miami @ Just the Funny Theatre** July 14; **NYC @ 59e59** July 17 & 18. **Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Scotland,** August 6-14.

- **Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts** – Miami Made Project: **Model City**, Miami, Fl. March 6 & 7 2010. Invited as part of Miami Made Festival to present performance Project called Model City for “Incubator” portion of the show.
- **The Krane** – Based in Miami, Works Globally, 2007 – Present. Founder and Artistic Director. Company merges visual art and theatre; We create events, and productions around the US and abroad. www.thekrane.com. Have produced, with the Krane, a number of shows: **Pink Zebras; Post-Secret, Miami; Shoes & a Show: Miami Vignettes; Monologus Lingus; Shake it Up** and many more. Please see website for details. We take commissions, as well as initiate projects.
- **Parked** – a Play about two architects constructing a Park – it is also a political parallel of Palestine and Israel. Production at **Just the Funny Theatre**, Miami Fl Dec. 27, 2009 **The Chameleon Theatre**, Amsterdam, Netherlands. May 2008. <http://www.decameleon.nl/> Reading at **The Rep**, Little Rock, Arkansas. August 2007.
- **Cloudecuckooland** – A play about the city of Miami with all of its complex layers. Production at **Abanico Theatre**, Miami, Fl. March 2008. Staged Reading at **Books & Books**, Miami, Fl. 2005.
- **Raw Impressions**, New York, NY, 2002 & 2003. Worked as writer/director for two shows for them:
 - **RIOT – Raw Impressions Out of the Box Theatre** — My Piece entitled: “My Life as a Stairdweller and the Secrets of Aviation.” Produced at **TIXE** in Times Square, New York, New York, October 2003. Also worked another piece for them called “The Meaning of North.”

Painting Exhibitions/Murals

- **Divine Debris & Glorious Trash** – Miami, Fl. June 2009. Group show sponsored by Arts at St. Johns and The Miami Beach Botanical Garden. Show was dedicated to using recycled materials and “trash” in art.
- **Vivid**, Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. – Feb – March 2009. Group show at New Light Studio/Gallery (Lauderdale by the Sea). A joint community project between professional artists and high school students to encourage artistic growth.
- **The Black Valentine Day Art Show**, Miami, Fl. Feb. 13, 2009. Group show sponsored by KraveArt and Wallove.
- **Last Picture Show**, Miami, Fl. March – April 2008. Group show at Artformz in Design District of selected Miami artists.
- **Women and War**, Miami Women’s Club, Miami, Fl. March 2008, Miami. Group show on the subject of women and war for a conference called “Reflections on War,” sponsored by Arts at St. Johns.
- **EXPOSED!** Miami, Fl, Art Basel, 2007. Juried Group Show at Artformz.
- **Locust Projects Raffle**, Miami, Fl. Nov 2006 - 2008. Sold “La Girafa,” “The Flowers Are More Interesting Underground” as well as a Series called “Journal Drawings.”
- **Off the Wall**, Miami, Fl May 12, 2007. Wynwood One Night Happening @ 310 NW 26th street, curated by The Krane. Other artists included Aleksandar Kirilov, Rachel Hoffman, Yoshimitsu Takano, and Madame Gremalkin, along with Wize Foolz Muzik, Gatoe, and Nikki Garcia.
- **Fast** – Miami, Fl. Wynwood. April 2007. Group Show @ 370 NW 24th street, curated by Jordon Massengale.
- **Intimate Bodies, Public Spaces**, San Francisco, March 1-31st 2007. Group show at The Mina Dresden Gallery <http://minadresden.com>

- **Intensely Superficial**, Miami, Jan. – March 2007. Group Show at Artformz in the Design District
- **Pregon, Miami Dade Public Library Call and Response Series #1**, Miami, Fl. Oct. – Dec. 2006 – invited to be a part of a series of work that responds to the library’s collection. Artists included: Ernesto Burgos, Teo Castellanos, Carlos de Villasante, Christian Duran, Beatriz Monteavaro, and Angela Valella.
- **Museum of Modern Art**, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. March 2006 -- invited with Miami Gallery, Edge Zones, to participate in an exhibit and series of performances at the Museum of Modern Art, Santo Domingo. Project was entitled “Reassessing the Diaspora”
- **Imaging Ourselves**. <http://imow.org/> June 2006. Juried Exhibition, chosen as featured artist for online exhibition.
- **HGTV commission, Miami, Fl. 2006**. Commissioned to paint a mural for “**Mission Organize**”.
- **Tactics and Strategies**, San Francisco, March 3 - April 1, 2006. Group Show at The Mission Cultural Center for Arts. Juried Exhibition.
- **Doodle**, Soho, New York, New York. Sept 1-15, 2006. Group Show at The Broadway Gallery.
- **Restructured Reality**, Miami, Fl. Feb-March 2006. Group show at edgezones in Wynwood. <http://www.edgezones.org>
- **Secrets of Aviation**, Coral Gables, Fl. Oct. 2005. Solo Show at The Gilded Hand.
- **THE DISTRICT**, Miami, Fl. Sept. 8- Oct 13, 2005. Solo Show.
- **The Miami Paintings**, Miami, Fl. Summer 2005. The Four Ambassadors Hotel Lobby. Solo show.
- **Beyond All That**, Miami, Fl. Jan 8th – Feb 26, 2005. Edge Zones Gallery, World Arts Building. Group show about the relationship of art and social transformation.
- **Puntos de Vista**, Queens, New York, May 6, 2004 .Queens Council on the Arts benefit and auction of work by contemporary New York Latino Artist.
- **Visual Mnemonics**, Miami, Fl. April 17-June 14, 2004. Edge Zones Gallery, World Arts Building. Group show suggesting art as a device that triggers the power of memory.
- **Night of 1,000 Drawings**, New York, New York, 2003. Group show at Artist’s Space, Soho.
- **National Academy of Design**, New York, New York, Aug- Sept. 2001. Group show.
- **Miller Theater**, New York, New York. April –May 2001. Group show.
- **Leroy Neiman Center for Print Studies**, Columbia University, New York, New York. April-May 2001. Group Show.
- **National Arts Club**, New York, New York, 2000. Group show of Muralists.

Honors and Awards

- **Schaeffer Fellowship in Creative Non-Fiction** – awarded in 2010. Given for PhD studies and to write a book of Creative Non-fiction (*Statements*) at the Univeristy of California, Irvine.
- **Vermont Studio Center Writing Residency** – April 2010. Received Fellowship to write at the center and work on a play called *Island Blogosphere*.
- **Phoebe Winter Fiction Contest** – May 2009. Finalist for story entitled *33*.
- **NYC Midnight Short Story Challenge**, March 2009. Story entitled *FedEx To Denmark* placed in the Top Five. <http://www.nycmidnight.com/>
- **Nomination for Best New American Fiction Prize**, May 2008. For short story *Shells in Manhattan*. Winners TBA. Nominated by Edwidge Danticat.

- **Graduate Fiction Prize**, University of Miami, Fl. May 2008. For short story *Shells in Manhattan*. Judge: Chauncey Mabe, South Florida Sun-Sentinel.
- **New York State Summer Writers Institute**, Saratoga Springs, NY. July 2008. Full tuition scholarship to study with Margot Livesey & Jim Shepard in the genre of Fiction.
- **The Rolex Mentor & Protégé Arts Initiative, 2008**. Finalist for literature protégé to work with Wole Soyinka. One of four finalists world-wide. Visited Soyinka in his home in Abeokuta, Nigeria, and in Lagos for one week.
- **Voices at the River Residency at the Arkansas Repertory Theatre**, Little Rock, Arkansas. August. 6-19, 2007. Two week residency for play "Parked." Public reading at the end of residency. www.therep.org
- **James Michner Fellow, University of Miami, Fl. 2007-2009**. Full Fellowship/Tuition Scholarship for Graduate Studies/ MFA in Creative Writing from with grant for **Teaching Assistantship** during MFA
- **Grant from The City of Miami, Commissioner Johnny Winton**, Miami, Fl. 2002 to launch a project entitled Model City. Grant for \$1,400.
- **Edward Austen Abbey Mural Workshop Scholarship**, New York, NY. 2001. Scholarship to study the art of mural painting at the National Academy of Design, NYC.
- **Time Grant for Visual Arts**, Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, NY. 2001
- **The Doris E. Fleischman Writing Award**, Barnard College, Columbia University, May 2000. For best piece of Writing fiction or non-fiction.
- **International Library of Photography Editor's Choice Award**, 1998
- **Miami International Bookfair Award in Writing**, 1997. For new Voices.

In Collections of:

Ramon Balboa – Katrina; Heartbreak; Skirt Train (long drawing/installation)
 Mary Danguillecourt – Trickle Down Economics is Bullshit
 Melissa Krinzman, Miami – The Journal Drawings
 Paul and Estelle Berg, Miami – The Flowers are More Interesting Underground
 Stephen Gamson, Miami – The Flower Women
 Law Offices of Inaqui Saizarbitoria, Miami – A Trip to the Moon
 Olga Marie Saizarbitoria (Discovery Channel), Miami – Virgin Mary Series
 Digna French (lawyer), Miami – La Girafa
 Caryl Phillips (writer), New York/London/Delray Beach -- Delray
 Pioneer Commodities, Boca Raton – This is What I Know For Sure & Drawings
 Doug Harris, Bisazza – Byzantium
 ...And Others

Art Books Featured In:

Wet2

Published 2006

(ISBN: 0-9778621-0-0)

Edgezones Press Miami; Edited by Charo Oquet and David Vardi

Supermix: Union of the Diverse Contemporary Art in Miami

Published November 2008

Edgezones Press Miami; Edited by Charo Oquet and David Vardi

<http://web.me.com/charooquet/edgezonespress/Home.html>