

Author Biostatements

Christine Pearson Casanave

Even though I was an art major as an undergraduate, I knew I would not have a career as an artist. It just didn't feel right. Some years later, I constructed a life as an ESL teacher, and then as an applied linguist and university professor. My world as an academic has been filled with words, many of them marginally comprehensible. Life in Japan, where I saw extraordinary beauty amidst equally extraordinary ugliness, opened my eyes to the difficult pleasure of striving to make my own words beautiful, even in academic work. Yet I continued to draw the things I had trouble putting into words or that did not seem suitable for academic publications. Many years later I met Miguel, and we realized that we had an opportunity to create an unconventional genre. We don't know what to call it, and it probably doesn't need a name, but we think of it as an academic work of art. I don't know if we have succeeded, but the blend of interests, passions, words, and art forms feels somehow satisfying.

Miguel Sosa

After having spent my early years in Colombia, as a young man I resided briefly in the Dominican Republic, then emigrated to Canada. From Canada, I shifted residences and identities again by moving to France for some time. Back in Canada, I finished a master's degree in music and began a career as a musician. Then, I moved to Japan to conduct research in music. At the time I had no idea that I was about to start yet another life with a new set of identities, a new language, and another master's degree, this time in TESOL. After re-constructing myself many times in several cultures and languages and working in two disciplines, I find it absolutely normal to merge genres and art forms in what some may see as an unconventional academic book. Like our Renaissance friends, I enjoy bringing together music, art, books, and words from the stories we tell; these are the themes that compose the sonatas of our lives.