



Voces con Eco: Writing from Mano a Mano
Book Launch and Reading
May 18, 2010 from 7-9pm
The General Mexican Consulate in New York

Luz Aguirre has lived in New York for over 20 years; she was born in Nezahualcoyotl, Mexico. She is utterly in love with her culture and lives it to the fullest in this marvelous city filled with *Mexicanidad*. She has participated for over a year in the workshop led by Mary Ellen Sanger of NYWC at Mano a Mano (where she also works). Luz thanks Emily Socolov, Mano a Mano's Executive Director, for urging her to be part of this amazing writing workshop. She has a wonderfully supportive family and is the mother of a nine year old. She hopes to someday write about urgent issues such as immigration.

Miguel Angel Angeles is a 28 year old Xican@ migrant. The youngest in his family, he was born and raised in Lindsay, in California's Central Valley. He migrated to New York City in the summer of 2005 and has settled here since. An ESOL teacher for the Brooklyn Public Library and a volunteer HIV Test Counselor at the Gay Men's Health Crisis, Miguel Angel feels passionately about issues of immigration and sexuality/sexual health. A voracious reader, he counts as his inspiration the works of Ovid, Catullus, Cherrie Moraga, Gloria Anzaldúa, Arturo Islas, Michael Nava, and Manuel Muñoz.

Leonardo Anzúres Ruiz is Pueblan to his core, forced into exile by the political, economic and social crises that still prevail in beautiful, wounded Mexico. He emigrated to the United States bringing a backpack full of dreams, which has now become a suitcase full of nightmares. He works in a kitchen for his expenses and is an actor and writer for pleasure in the City of New York. The city closed its doors to him – but he has been able to sneak underneath, if only to bring the message of his work to the whole community and to all those who wake up every day fighting and striving to move forward with this same ideal: "there is always a life to pursue and a dream to reach".

Alberto Bremermann was born in Chiapas and moved from Mexico City to New York City two and a half years ago. He has been a member of the creative writing workshop at Mano a Mano for two years. One of the poems he wrote in the workshop was published in the 2009 anthology, *Against Agamemnon: War Poetry* by WaterWoodPress. Recently, he completed his master's degree in Law with a concentration in Intellectual Property. Currently, he has given up sleep and hopes one day to learn French.

Abelardo Durán was born in Mexico City and came to New York five years ago. He says that because of their daily struggles, his parents are his model and inspiration for how to forge his path in the world. His brothers and sisters, who have shown him limitless solidarity, push him and inspire him to be a better father, son and brother. Since he arrived in New York, he has worked in the restaurant and service industry, where the real work has been in maintaining his spirit of struggle. He was positively surprised to find so many people who speak Spanish, especially Mexican Spanish, and is passionate about encouraging the its use throughout the city: "*órale buey, cámara, aguas*". He has always been a lover of literature and history, in English or Spanish. Abelardo has attended the writing workshop at Mano a Mano for over a year, and continues to write, liking the idea of calling himself a writer. He wants to continue perfecting his craft, and learning more about literature.

Mariel Escalante was born in Mexico City and studied Chemical Sciences at the Autonomous University of Puebla. Arriving in New York City in the early 90's with a scholarship from her country, to attend English programs at Teachers College and Hunter College. She earned a MS in Medical Biology from Long Island University in 1999 and worked in the Department of Human Genetics at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. She taught Mexican history, culture and traditions to a group of American-born children of Mexican immigrants in the Bronx in the mid-90's, an experience that inspired her to write bilingual stories for young children. She is married with two young children, who have renewed her inspiration to write and create in Spanish and English (and who have also been inspired to write their own stories). In addition children's literature, Mariel enjoys sports and baking with her children.

Ricardo Hernández was born in autumn by the bay of San Francisco, California. His mother is from Chihuahua and his father from the State of Mexico. His first childhood memories are as follows: seaweed, Candlestick Park and Curious George books. In the late 70's he enters Mexican territory where he realizes for the first time the existence of a wide variety of insects and fruits, in particular bees and mangos. He completes all his basic studies in the state of Jalisco, sponsored by the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). In the city of Guadalajara, he undertakes his university studies and begins his intellectual and artistic formation. He comes to New York City in early 2000, where he can be found cycling through the streets of Manhattan and doing yoga in the East Village. He is a singer, songwriter and creator of the musical group Beboluz.

Raúl Hurtado, Mexican-born and -hearted and migrant because his dreams forced him to fly, lives in the Big Apple for the satisfaction of his friends and the misfortune of ignorance. His passion and mission is to create art in diverse forms (drama, literature, visual arts, etc...) and to share it with the community so that they may use it as a tool to improve themselves and the quality of their lives and to better live in harmony with their environment.

Betsy Lainez is from El Salvador and has been in New York since her arrival in the United States almost thirty years ago. She credits her mother with being the pillar and inspiration of her large family of brothers and sisters. Betsy enjoys her career that gives support and assistance for those around her.

Tatiana Mendoza was born in the state of Oaxaca, and lived in New York for about four years, prior to her return to Mexico. Towards the end of her stay she joined the Mano a Mano writing workshop, where she recalls many unforgettable moments. She is thankful for the simple and welcoming touch shown there to members of the great Latino immigrant groups residing in this great city. Special thanks to her parents for the great support they have always given with her

large and small projects, and to her colleagues at the Mano a Mano workshop for giving her the opportunity to be part of this great project. She is currently in the process of certifying herself as a licensed nurse in Mexico.

Rosio Ramos was born in New York. When she was two, her parents decided to return to their beloved Puebla, Mexico where she lived the best stage of her life, her childhood. She wouldn't trade one second of that childhood spent in planting and harvesting, under the shade of mango, lemon, tamarind and orange trees, and in view of a small town that raised her as one of its own. After eight years in Mexico, her parents decided to move to the capital of the world. Since then she has lived in this magnificent city, unable to imagine herself living anywhere else. She is thrilled to have known two such different worlds, different populations – and both captivate her. New York City is her city, rich in culture, art, and magic and Rosio feels privileged to say she is from New York. She considers her family her treasure, as it has given her strength to move forward. She is currently in clinical training to work with kidney patients who receive dialysis treatments, work that helps her appreciate the value of her life, to continue the struggle to remain content and engaged in life. She is a passionate and open learner without prejudices! Rosio is grateful for this opportunity to express herself.

Gabriel Rivera was born in Guerrero, México and has lived in New York for twelve years. He currently works in construction and demolition (and loves to construct and later demolish!) He is passionate about fostering unity, independent of the distinction of flags. He is grateful to have both his parents, who cheer him on from Mexico, keep him from falling into idleness and spur him to work long and hard. Four of his original six brothers and sisters are alive. He adores his family, and seeks reconciliation with many cousins who he hasn't seen. Gabriel wishes to be known and understood as a complete human being, who feels and hurts, who is not perfect but always tries to do his best, and lives his life with great joy.

Flavio Tochimani, born in Cholula, Puebla, the small town of San Agustín Calvario, has been in New York for a year and a half. His family is the foundation of all his challenges, for it is through his parents, brothers and sisters that he has learned many of life's important lessons. He is happy with his life as a writer, and also his "day job," without which he could not obtain those things he aspires to. He is drawn to reading good literature, especially short stories.

Claudia Urey is from León, Nicaragua, and has been in New York and New Jersey since she arrived in the United States seven years ago. She says her mother is the most important person in her life. From an early age, Claudia has worked to help those most in need. She currently works in a program that gives assistance to Latino immigrants, and cites among her driving passions, justice and reading.