



### **Verbobala Spoken Video**

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### **About**

Verbobala is a Mexico-USA arts collaboration which challenges the traditional concept of artistic genres through bilingual site-specific performances and installations. Like international borders, the separation between artistic forms and languages has become increasingly amorphous and irrelevant. While focusing on combining live video projection with bilingual spoken word poetry, their pieces play with the limits between cinema and literature, performance and installation, orchestration and improvisation, English and Spanish, audience and artist.

**"They're on their way to a poetry written without letters."** –*Reforma, national newspaper, Mexico.*

### **Group Members**

**Adam Cooper-Terán** – Self-taught Chicano video artist, born in Tucson, Arizona, USA in 1985. Recipient of the Tucson Pima Arts Council 2008 Lumie Award for Individual Achievement of an Emerging Artist. Member of internationally-known Flam Chen Pyrotechnic Theater Company. Specialist in experimental portraiture, deconstruction of digital video samples and contemporary ritual.

**Logan Timothy Phillips** – American border poet, born in the Arizona-Mexico borderlands in 1983. B.A. cum laude in Spanish, Northern Arizona University, 2005. Professor of Hispanic American Literature and translation, International University, Cuernavaca, Mexico, 2007. Four-time competitor in the American National Poetry Slam. Phillips has performed his poetry in France, Canada, Mexico and the UK.

**Moisés Regla** – Mexican new-media artist, born in Cuernavaca, Mexico in 1978. Has studied at the National School for Visual Arts in Mexico City and holds a Visual Arts degree with specialization in multimedia from the Morelos State Autonomous University, Mexico. Regla's work has been shown in Spain, Canada and Columbia among other countries, his focus is fusing live video with performing arts such as dance.

### **Selected Recent Press**

2008.09.25 **Reforma**, national newspaper, cover of Arts section, Mexico.  
2008.09.19 **La Jornada Oriente**, newspaper, full-page article, Mexico.  
2008.10.09 **Ibero 90.9 FM**, interview on morning radio program Mexico.  
2008.10.01 **"El Rotativo,"** section on television program, Canal 22, Mexico.  
2008.05.16 **Boston Metro**, newspaper, interview, Massachusetts, USA.  
2008.04.10 **Tucson Citizen**, cover of Arts section, Arizona, USA.  
2008.04.10 **Corvallis Gazette-Times**, article, newspaper, Oregon, USA.  
2008.10 **Emeequis**, interview, magazine, Mexico.

### *Selected performance résumé*

2008 Performance, discussion, DJ / VJ. Ciudad Juárez Autonomous University, Cd. Juárez, Mexico  
2008 Performance. French Embassy, Mexico City.  
2008 Performance and workshops. National Hispanic Cultural Center, Albuquerque, USA  
2008 Performance. National Association for Latino Arts & Culture, Tucson, Arizona, USA  
2008 Featured group and host. College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational, Albuquerque, USA  
2008 Headliner. 26th Annual Tucson Poetry Festival, Arizona, USA  
2008 Performance. Bowery Poetry Club, New York City, USA  
2008 Performance and discussion. Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, USA  
2007-08 Featured performer. Poesía.en.Voz.Alta Festival, UNAM, Mexico City  
2007 Performance, installation and hosting. TipofyourTongue Festival, Penzance, England  
2007 Host and featured performer, National Poetry Slam, Mexico City  
2007 Performance. Polytechnic University of Morelos, Jiutepec, Mexico  
2007 Performance and discussion. Tula-Tepeji Polytechnic University, Tula, Mexico  
2007 Resident group and organizer. CuernaSlam Poetry Slam, Cuernavaca, Mexico

### *Technical Requirements / Rider*

#### **Stereo audio system**

Three microphones with stands. Wired / wireless OK.  
Two 1/4" audio inputs on stage, feeding directly to the PA.

#### **Video Projectors**

Two (2), of similar make/model or power. Minimum 2,000 lumens each.  
Two (2) VGA cables, 50' in length each, to be run from stage to projectors.

#### **Projection Area**

Generally, 6' x 18'. Largely depends on the space and the projectors, the group is flexible in this regard and enjoys adapting to what's available. Projection does not necessarily have to be onto traditional screens. However, if screens are used, these must be placed as close to stage-level as possible.

#### **Illumination** (optional, projectors act as main illumination)

Warm colors, positioned so as not to wash the screens.

### *Performances, installations and workshops*

The following events are available for festivals, schools, bars, theaters, galleries, etc. Indoor / outdoor. Please see [www.verbobala.com/video](http://www.verbobala.com/video) for trailers, demos and samples. Please contact the group for pricing.

#### **Theatrical spoken video performances**

##### **Border Remixeado**

Border Remixeado is the first show created by the Mexican-American performance collaboration Verbobala Spoken Video. Combining live video projections, electroacoustic audio and bilingual spoken word, the piece presents a unique and direct vision of border identity, Spanglish, Mexico and the Sonoran Desert. Border Remixeado plays with the limits of genres and geography, having been presented from Cd. Juárez to New York and Mexico City. 45min. *Verbobala* (3 people total).

##### **Nobody Speaks**

*Nobody Speaks* is a multimedia theatrical performance piece written by Verbobala Spoken Video and presented in collaboration with Flam Chen Pyrotechnic Theater Company. Part spectacle, part documentary and part fantasy, *Nobody Speaks* pulls audiences away from reality, presenting an alternative view of modern identity and the meaning of international borders. The video and written material of *Nobody Speaks* is based upon an on-going series of interviews conducted by Verbobala with real people from all walks of life: from a rural Mexican farmer to a Canadian Ph.D. linguist. These interviews are then sampled, remixed and rearranged, becoming bases from which fictional characters are created. 60min. *Verbobala and Flam Chen* (7 people total).



## *Performances, installations and workshops (Con.'t)*

### **Sonidero Verbobala Soundsystem**

A DJ/VJ project built on the traditions of the sonideros of Monterrey, Mexico and early Jamaican soundsystems, Verbobala can fill any space and any event with global rhythms from the underground. 808 beats under roots cumbia, Balkan horns blasting over dub, electronic music and field recordings from three continents; all punctuated by Spanglish MC's. Any tempo, anytime: world music isn't a genre. It's what we sound like when the borders slip away, blowing through the barrio on the way to a danceparty at dawn, an afterparty, or an art opening. *1 to 3 hrs., Verbobala feat. DJ Emtron (4 people total).*



Regla, Cooper-Terán and Phillips  
*foto: Oswaldo Ramirez*

### **Interactive video installations**

#### **Barrio Linguistics**

Barrio Linguistics is an exploration of nomadic Spanish found in the linguistic landscape of Spanish Harlem, New York City through interactive video installation. Makes use of photography, animation, poetry, video projection and electroacoustic audio to incite dialog about the role of language and advertising in contemporary society. The piece is an experimental documentary of the linguistics of south-north migration and the changing face of urban semiotics. The piece was created by sampling all publicly viewable Spanish language text within a five block radius in Spanish Harlem. Later, a poem was written using exclusively this vocabulary. In the installation, the order of the videopoeem is dictated by the user.

#### **Commissions**

Verbobala is a residency project. Separate from the other events listed, the group also creates site-specific pieces that tell the stories of a particular place, elaborating on its people, history, and culture. To develop a coherent performance or installation, the group studies the history of an area and research events that have happened on the grounds or in relation to it. Interviews are conducted with the people of this place, capturing their ideas in relation to the themes. Using Verbobala's methods of deconstruction and remixing, a multi-media narrative is created that connects the space and its history to the spectators in a very personal way.

### **Academic presentations & workshops**

#### **DIY Media Theory**

Moisés Regla and Adam Cooper-Terán provide discourse on their creative processes regarding media de-construction, remix culture, international collaborations and the role of the video artist in contemporary culture. The 40-60 minute multimedia presentation provides insight into the "do-it-yourself" aesthetic and internet workflow consistently used by Verbobala Spoken Video to create their pieces, and will also allow ample time for Q&A.

#### **Words Between Our Teeth**

A performance poetry workshop with Logan Phillips. If musicians practice playing their instruments, why shouldn't poets practice playing their vocal chords? What does an opera singer know about training the voice that a poet doesn't? How can performance reveal what hides between the lines of a written piece? Why is reading in front of a crowd seen as difficult? Nervousness and excitement are two different words for the same emotion. This workshop is for poets of all types, all styles and all experience levels. Bring your words: memorized or written down. Come for a relaxed exploration of linguistics, yoga, hip-hop and acting as they apply to poetry. Come learn to read like laughing. Come just for fun. Come expecting to surprise yourself. *60min.*

## Academic presentations & workshops (Con.'t)

### International Underground Art Movements

A 40 to 60 minute multimedia presentation by the members of Verbobala, which introduces students to contemporary art movements in Mexico and beyond. Presenting work from some of the most progressive international video, music and performance artists working today, the event gives insight into a world of art simmering just below the commercial surface. Further discussions include the merging of global artistic trends and the importance of cross-cultural exchanges through art. The presentation ends with a question and answer session.

### Vocal Video: Digital Storytelling

Vocal Video is a workshop focused on providing participating youth with alternatives for self-expression through spoken word, poetry, and video art. Working in groups, students are led in creating their own video-poem: a collaborative piece that unites their own writing, recording, editing and live performance. The goals of the workshop are to provide students with modern tools for confident communication; to teach media literacy and present digital media as a creative outlet; to awake in students an appreciation for the power of their own creativity and unique voices. By the end of the workshop, each group will have: written a multi-voiced performance poem through collaboration; recorded and edited a series of video samples; performed their video-poem in front of a crowd of peers. *2 to 16 hours total, split into 2 hour sessions.*



fotos: Pilar Campos, Stephanie Amber Hageman, Alberto Varela