

ARTIST STATEMENT

June 2024 @FlashGalleryBCN

Nelson Correa

Rilke Embeddings: The poetry of Rainer Maria Rilke, new media, painting and sculpture

“Every work of art is the child of its age and, in many cases, the mother of our emotions, ... each period of culture produces an art of its own which can never be repeated.”

Wassily Kandinsky, *Concerning the spiritual in Art*, 1912

This exposition is a product of the twenty-first century, with its advances in science and technology that continue to refine our understanding of the mind and the human. The exposition reflects my work of the past six years in the field that the economist and Nobel prize winner *Herbert Simon* called *“The Sciences of the Artificial.”*

How do we interpret art? How does the brain respond to a work of art? A work of art is an external form that enters through the senses and ends as an internal representation in the depths of the brain. Each science may describe this process differently. As in biology and mathematics, we abstract all representations as encodings, as vector embeddings in the cognitive spaces of the brain.

All is vectors in the head! That’s our proposal.

Here we take the work of Rainer Maria Rilke and associate his poetry with new digital art, voice recordings, sculpture and painting that is relevant to the poems and, in at least one case, had an influence on the poem. The poems, originally in German, and their translations are encoded as *Rilke embeddings*, hyper-dimensional vectors that are projected and visualized in colorful two-dimensional Cartesian graphs.

“Who, if I cried out, would hear me among the Angel’s orders?”

R.M. Rilke, *First Elegy*, January 1912
(translation by E. Snow, 2009)

Rilke is one of the most intense German poets, a key figure in the transition to modernism in poetry and literature at the turn of the twentieth century. Rilke's verse is often mystical and allegorical, exploring the spiritual in the absence of a personal God.

His life took him from his origins in the Austro-Hungarian empire (Prague, 1875), to Germany, Italy, France and finally Switzerland (Valais, 1926). During his stay in Paris at the turn of the century, as personal secretary of *Rodin*, he was influenced by the paintings of *El Greco* and was acquainted with Spanish painter *Ignacio Zuloaga*, also in Paris at the time.

The selection of materials celebrates Rilke’s trip to Spain, to Toledo and Ronda in the winter of 1912 to 1913, and includes prosaic texts as well. We include the *Spanish Dancer* (1907, *New Poems*) and the *Spanish Trilogy* (1913, *Uncollected poems*), as well as the *Duino Elegies* (1923), first started just before the trip to Spain. The poems are illustrated with paintings by *Zuloaga* and *El Greco*, and work of British sculptor *Emily Young*, among others.

THE ARTIST

Nelson Correa is linguist, translator and a computer scientist who works on natural language analysis and artificial intelligence. Three years ago, the Muse in Vorarlberg brought him into contact with the poetry of Rainer Maria Rilke, and his work decidedly took a neural, probabilistic and cognitive turn.

BY FLASH GALLERY BCN

We celebrate our second exposition of 2024, proud to have this singular (and expansive) interpretation of art by Nelson Correa.

It is an unusual exposition, as it introduces new concepts and explores the question of how art may be physically represented in the brain. It offers a vision of art in the interpreted world of the future, through representations here directed to notable works of the past. Poetry, painting, sculpture and new media will be on display in our gallery.

We invite you to a pleasant evening at Flash Gallery BCN.

David Correa (curator)



Archangel Michael, Emily Young, 2004



Spanish Dancer, Antonia the Galician
Ignacio Zuloaga, 1911

INVITATION VERNISSAGE

Friday, June 21, 2024

(18:00 a 22:00)

Schedule:

21 – 26 June, 2024

Saturday June 22, 10:00 - 12:00

Monday to Wednesday, June 24-26, 15:00 - 19:00

By appointment: +1 914-610-0535 (*WhatsApp*)

Nelson Correa

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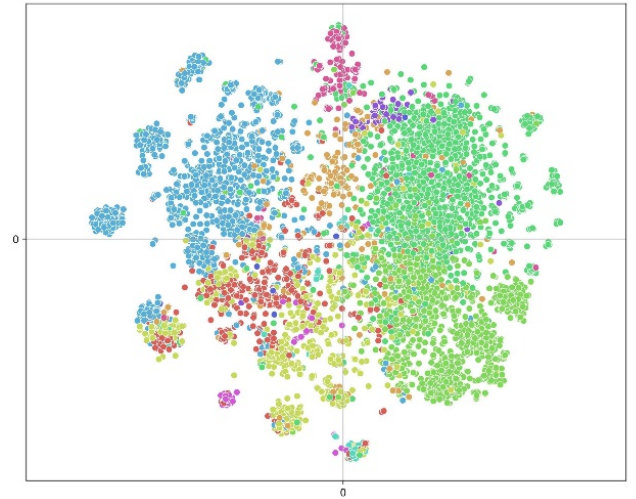
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Flash Gallery 



The Plight of the American Man, 2024

SUMMER Event
Exposición de VERANO

Nelson Correa

Cognitive Art

June 2024