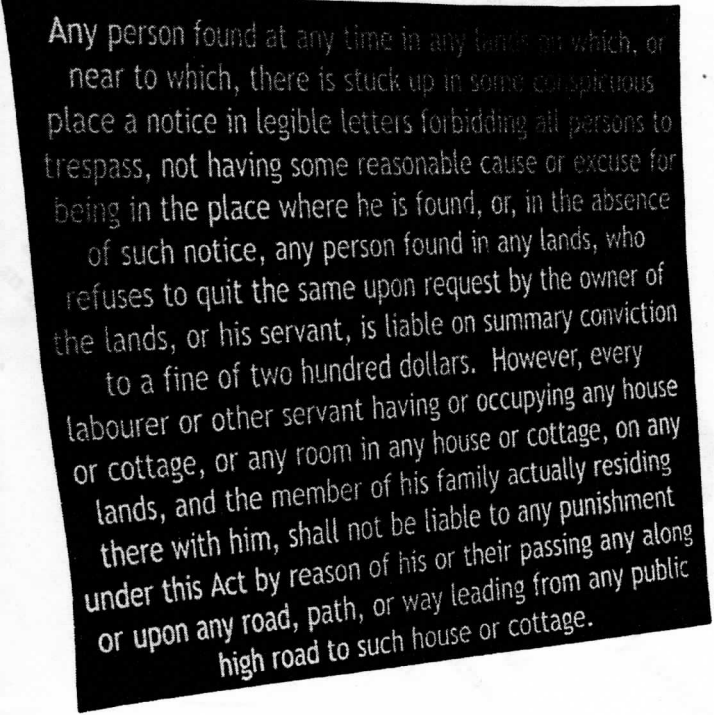

Christopher is running.

I am running after him. The wind is in our faces as I shout

What follows is a conversation between a and

This interview was with and

promoting and supporting national agendas. The alternatives are the illegitimate children of the nation who by virtue of differing race, class, gender or sexual variables find them

The cultural fragments this game brings into play come from everywhere in the world,

share the privilege and the burden of growing up biculturally. We talked in early October across an antique marriage table in her sunny living room.

who worked as a journalist for 10 years. A true citizen of the world, she has also lived for extended periods in Jamaica, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Somalia, working Barcelona, Spain, where I live, and Amherst College, in Massachusetts, where is Jr. Professor running between several points—Rotterdam, Copenhagen, Montreal, Port-au-Prince—so it has been challenging to conduct this email interview with him.

CB Your mother was very literary?

MEG She was a schoolteacher and a writer and very supportive of everything I did, no matter what I did. We had two small children then, and that first novel grew during the years when we lived in

Continuity of

those simple things that envelop us, slipping in between memories and oblivion, choices and destiny.

When I left home at the age of about 19, I did not foresee any outside obstacles to becoming a writer, except that I had to practice my writing until I had reached a point where I felt that it was as good as I could make it. As an avid reader, it was easy for me

CB So there is no specific political content in your work?

"mythless." The alter*natives* are natives without narratives, or perhaps those with unpopular narratives. Often

with neither boundaries nor center—writer and region become inseparable.

's sculpture approaches the subject of architecture and memory. As a Cuban American artist, her memory becomes an identity and, as such, is reconstructed with many inaccuracies and contradictions. Her sculptures embody this condition. They are

a profusely mestizo novel; a form of creolization. Except that in this case the form has been projected over the map of the world. ⊙

"Public art is rarely placed in marginalized neighborhoods. Since I believe in the transformative power of art, I wanted

Secrets and Death"

After

moving again

loaded with questions.

artist took excerpts from American patriotic songs and combined them with his own texts to produce disconcerting, definitive statements on the politics of inequality.

in 1998, *Migrate*
was introduced

when he said that there seemed to be a persistent belief that it was only possible to "become 'real writers' abroad—rather than 'aboard' " What is

on the wrong side of nation stories in opposition to the majority groups that assert ownership of the national

artistic output. How have you managed to juggle these different and sometimes conflicting practices?

Reading the Migration Library is a public reading project that invites people to spend time, with others, inside of the nearlly infinite library of migration tales. "Christopher is running" documents an interview with an author(s) from that library. It was created using a discarded issue of *Bomb* during Adore-Abhor: Writing Other People's Words workshop with Jo Cook at Read Books.

Lois Klassen
Readingthemigrationlibrary.com

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