

MARK KENT NAVARRO

markkentnavarro@gmail.com

(410) 805-1206

markkentnavarro.com

ARTIST BIO:

Mark Navarro's work as a sound artist and composer explores the confluence of cultural memory, identity, and healing through engrossing sonic experiences. Drawing from his Filipino heritage and Baltimore upbringing, he creates soundscapes that bridge diverse musical traditions while examining themes of loss, transformation, and cultural dialogue. He takes inspiration from pioneering artists like John Cage and Ryuichi Sakamoto.

As a key member of A.S.H. (Ambient Sound Healing), Navarro performs improvised compositions on the Japanese Koto alongside Daoure Diongue's Senegalese Ngoni. Their live performances accompany Ellery Bryan's digitized 16mm films, creating a multimedia meditation and intricate dialogue on grief and cultural identity. Navarro's choice of the Koto reflects on the Japanese occupation of the Philippines, creating an intentional tension that speaks to histories of colonization while transforming grief into universal human experience.

His recent film compositions demonstrate his involved understanding of narrative acuity. His composition for Kelley Settles' documentary 'Eternal Lotus,' (2024) embodies Buddhist principles by utilizing minimalist compositions centered around digitally manipulated singing bowls over bass guitar. This restraint in composition reflects the journey of the people in the film.

Navarro collaborates extensively with his sibling, visual artist Kat Navarro, composing scores that explore their shared Filipino-American identity. Their most recent installation, 'When You Arrive,' showcased at Towson University's gallery, features his original composition 'Kalapati,' (2023) which weaves pre-colonial Filipino musical elements with contemporary Manila soundscapes and family oral histories. Their animated short 'Bug Box' (2022) earned recognition at the 2022 Sweaty Eyeballs Animation Festival and screened at the 2024 Maryland Film Festival.

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ARTIST BIO (cont'd.):

His theatrical sound design demonstrates versatility across genres and emotional topographies. For Truepenny Projects' 'Lyra & The Ferocious Beast' (2023) at The Voxel, Navarro crafted an original score that supported Tatiana Nya Ford's science-fiction epic of a girl marooned on a planet with a nearly extinct alien species. At The Vagabond Players, his sound design for Paula Vogel's powerful 'How I Learned to Drive' (2024) enhanced the play's exploration of trauma and resilience during the setting of 1969 rural Maryland, while his work on Meghan Tyler's 'Crocodile Fever' (2024) at The Strand Theatre created an atmospheric horror soundscape of a surreal 1989 Northern Ireland during The Troubles.

Under the alias Baatchoy, Navarro has diversified his repertoire as a producer and audio engineer. His collaboration with DMV artist DYYO led to the formation of G.O.L.D., yielding two releases: 'START AGAIN' (2021) and 'LIGHT MY FIRE' (2023). As a producer and engineer, he had contributed to Baltimore's vibrant music scene, working with distinguished local artists including Abdu Ali, Baby Kahlo, and Bobbi Rush, while providing recording and engineering expertise across various studios throughout the city.

In addition to his artistic passions, Mark is currently employed at the Baltimore School for the Arts as an Arts Technologist, an essential part of a focused, and driven effort to support student collaboration between art disciplines, and provide interactive experiences that mimic real-world environments.

Navarro's journey is a commitment to harmonizing culture with contemporary expression. He continues to explore the metamorphic power of sound while seeking to enrich his own bonds and understanding the roots of his cultural heritage

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EDUCATION & AWARDS:

- 2024 Best Short Honorable Mention; *Eternal Lotus the Journey of Black Women in Buddhism* - Los Angeles Film Awards
- 2023 Bakers Artist Award Finalist - Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance
- 2023 OneBeat Virtual Alternate - U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
- 2023 Truepenny Projects' Artist Residency; *Lyra & The Ferocious Beast* - The Voxel
- 2015 Performance Art - Community College of Baltimore County

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- 2023 - Present Sound Director - Baltimore, MD
- 2023- Present Arts Technologist - Baltimore School for the Arts - Baltimore, MD
- 2021 Studio Manager - Area 405 - Baltimore, MD
- 2021 - Present Freelance Composer - Baltimore, MD
- 2020 - 2023 Producer/Songwriter - G.O.L.D - Baltimore, MD
- 2019 - 2021 Studio Manager - The Grotto - Baltimore, MD

COMPOSER & PRODUCER COMMISSIONS:

- 2024 Ambient Sound Healing, "002", improvisational performance, Baltimore, MD
- 2024 Kelley Settles, "Eternal Lotus the Journey of Black Women in Buddhism", documentary, composer, Los Angeles, CA
- 2024 Ambient Sound Healing, "001", improvisational performance, Baltimore, MD
- 2024 The Strand, "Crocodile Fever", theater play, sound designer, Baltimore, MD
- 2024 Babizulu, "Very Aligned", song, guitar production, Baltimore, MD
- 2024 The Vagabond Players, "How I Learned to Drive", theater play, sound designer, Baltimore, MD
- 2023 Baltimore Museum of Art, "The Culture: Hip Hop and Contemporary Art in the 21st Century", sound installation, co-producer; uncredited, Baltimore, MD
- 2023 Truepenny Projects, "Lyra & The Ferocious Beast", theater play, composer, sound director, Baltimore, MD

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COMPOSER & PRODUCER COMMISSIONS (cont'd.):

- 2023 Kat Navarro, "When You Arrive," multimedia installation, composer, Baltimore, MD
- 2023 Baatchoy, "SIMULATION & SIMULACRA" album, producer, Baltimore, MD
- 2023 Baltimore Museum of Art, Abdu Ali, "Language, Adornment, & Pose" music installation, co-producer (uncredited), audio engineer, Baltimore, MD
- 2023 G.O.L.D, "DIMMER", music video, director, producer, Baltimore, MD
- 2023 G.O.L.D, "LIGHT MY FIRE!!!", album, producer, Baltimore, MD
- 2023 GARÇON, "Bonsai", single, featured producer, Richmond, VA
- 2022 Kat Navarro, "Bug Box," multimedia installation, composer, Baltimore, MD
- 2022 Garçon, "Ghost in the Room," single, guitar, Alexandria, VA
- 2021 NTS Radio, Abdu Ali "THINGS WE MAY NEED BY ABDU ALI IN CONVERSATION W/ JERRELL GIBBS," recording & mixing engineer, Baltimore, MD
- 2021 Maryland National Parks, "Park Views," media installation, composer, Baltimore, MD

AUDIO ENGINEER COMMISSIONS:

- 2024 Mouchestar, "Ballads of Grand ILLusion," album, mix & mastering engineer, Baltimore, MD
- 2024 Noema, "Glass House", mix & mastering engineer, Baltimore, MD
- 2024 Jake Finck, "Burnt Taste Buds," album, mix & mastering engineer, Baltimore, MD
- 2023 Baatchoy, "SIMULATION & SIMULACRA," album, mix & mastering engineer, Baltimore, MD
- 2022 Abdu Ali, 'My Best Friend,' single, recording engineer, Baltimore MD

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AUDIO ENGINEER COMMISSIONS (cont'd.):

- 2022 Maahes, "Shadow of a Man," album, recording, mix & mastering engineer, Baltimore, MD
- 2022 Ruqqiyah, "Osmosis," album, mix & mastering engineer, Baltimore, MD
- 2021 G.O.L.D, "START AGAIN," extended play, recording, mix & mastering engineer, Baltimore, MD
- 2021 Tromac, "Bloodborne," single recording & mixing engineer, Baltimore, MD
- 2021 Valiant Turtle, "I HATE MUSIC," album, mixing & mastering engineer, Baltimore, MD
- 2020 Baby Kahlo, "Top B*tch," single, mix & mastering engineer, Baltimore MD
- 2020 POPE.LOUD, "GRIN," single, mix & mastering engineer, Baltimore, MD
- 2020 Threeyedmouse, "Who Do You Think You Are?" single, mix & mastering engineer, Baltimore, MD
- 2020 Bobbi Rush, "Sapphire Bleeding Gems," single, recording, mix & mastering engineer, Baltimore, MD
- 2018 REST NOW! Records, "Six Years to Ninety," single, composer, Venice, Italy

SELECTED PRESS:

- 2023 [Nefarious Supply](#)
- 2023 [WYPR](#)
- 2023 [Canvas Rebel](#)
- 2022 [VoyageLA](#)
- 2022 [Maggiore on Bowie](#)
- 2021 [ShoutOut LA](#)
- 2020 [Moments in Song](#)