

*Colombian Metamorphosis?* brings into collation the darkness and allusions of Kafka's *Metamorphosis*. The piece portrays various perspectives of the same setting, criticizing Kafka's inability to do so in the novel. However, the somber and benighted ambience of the novel is preserved in order to connect it with Colombia's violent conflict. To renew the mind of the Violencia period, said to have been from 1946 to 1958 but argued to prevail, Bloomberg's post "Colombian cocaine output soars to record of about 1,700 tons" is illustrated in the pastiche. Although the news expresses how cocaine is "fueling violence across the plane", it alludes to Gregor's adverse attitudes in his transformation as cocaine is believed to "make the user feel euphoric, energetic, talkative, mentally alert, and hypersensitive to sight, sound, and touch" (National Institute on Drug Abuse). In addition to that, inequality in Colombia is seen with this same news since Bloomberg is a digital medium and the news is shown in a newspaper from Kafka's time next to a radio, the medium with the most reach in the country. However, violence is also expressed in this pastiche not only while suggesting Colombia's violent conflict through the war on drugs. On a minor scale, it depicts the fragility of human relationships through a broken clock, symbolizing how many feel nostalgia and regret of being part of these fragile relationships. Much like Gregor's mother after Grete and his father agreed to "get rid" of the creature in the house. After all, *it* was broken and useless, much like the clock. The apple, other than symbolizing the apple that Gregor's father threw to him, symbolizes Genesis' forbidden fruit. It represents physical and psychological pain other than losing our place in the world. Additionally, it alludes to hunger in Colombia, which dehumanizes the value of our culture. Grete's violin represents a juxtaposition from the ambience in the piece with tranquility and the disasters that we are always facing although we might cover them up, specifically in Colombia. Finally, the butterflies represent Gabriel Garcia Marquez' "realismo mágico", as another genre of literature. However, not adding their characteristic yellow color sets the dark tone as well. Within "realismo mágico", which attempts to show the surreal things as daily things, Kafka's *Metamorphosis* is shown as something surreal pretending to be normal, which is what I felt when I read the book. They serve as a hopeful reminder of progress, which I believe Gregor and his family needed.

Overall, the picnic setting is Colombia's metamorphosis through rough patches and light. The Colombian objects serve to criticize the issues in our country while attempting to transition to a better Colombia, metamorphosing.