

CV/Rafael Blanco

1910 Sapphire Ln, Aurora IL 60506
 775-544-1317
 rafael-blanco@outlook.com
 www.rafael-blanco.com

EDUCATION

- 2013 MFA, Drawing & Painting, University of Nevada, Reno NV
 2004 BA cum laude, Studio Art, Saint Mary's College of California, Moraga CA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019-Present Professional Visual Public Artist
 2019-2023 Assistant Professor, Elmhurst University, Elmhurst IL
 2014-19 Art Program Coordinator/Instructor, Feather River College, Quincy CA
 2013-14 Adjunct Art Professor, University of Nevada, Reno NV
 2012-14 Adjunct Art Professor, Truckee Meadows Community College, Reno NV
 2012-14 Project Leader HandsON! Program, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno NV
 2011-2013 Instructor of Record, University of Nevada, Reno NV

PUBLIC ART

- 2023 **Cultural Pattern** (ground mural), City of San Mateo, San Mateo CA
NBS Project, National Bowling Stadium, Reno NV
Haley's World, RIO, Gaithersburg MD
Captain Elmhurst, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst IL
- 2022 **Born to Fly**, Corpus Christi Mural Festival, Corpus Christi TX
Just a Piece of Freedom, Old Saybrook CT
Making a Life, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, IL
Dance in Illinois, Fairlawn Real State, Urbana IL
Ute Prayer, Mural Fest, South Salt Lake UT
Be Bold, Elmhurst University, Elmhurst IL
Fresh Air, Riverwalk, Edwards CO
Urbana Enlightened, Adult Education Center, Urbana IL
Roti Mural, Roti Restaurants Headquarters, Chicago IL
Crave Better, Roti Restaurants Headquarters, Chicago IL
Reno Axe & Social Mural, Reno Ave & Social, Reno NV
- 2021 **Diversity in Technology Mural**, City of Aurora, Aurora IL
Fisher's Bar Mural, Fraser Public Art Committee, Fraser CO
Salem Heritage Mural, City of Salem, Salem IN
Thinking of You, Rockford, CREAT8IV Mural Festival, Rockford IL
Hunger Coalition Mural, Idaho Hunger Coalition, Bellevue ID
Resilience, Fraser Mountain Mural Festival, Fraser CO
- 2020 **Lester Bowie Mural**, Frederick Arts Council, Frederick MD
UNR Diversity Mural, University of Nevada, Reno NV
Stimulate the Senses, University of Nevada, Reno NV
- 2019 **Color Isn't Race**, City of Denver, Denver CO
Dorothea Lange, Blue Line Arts, Roseville CA
Frida, Circus Circus Mural Marathon, Reno NV

- 2018 **Western Pacific**, City of Portola, Portola CA
La Michoacana, City of Lincoln, Lincoln CA
- 2017 **Plumas County**, Plumas-Sierra Fairgrounds, Quincy CA
The Heart of Community, Plumas Arts, Quincy CA
- 2017 **Irma**, Reno Mural Expo, Reno NV
No Parking, Lincoln Mural Competition, Lincoln CA
Snapshot, Mural Marathon Circus Circus Resort, Reno NV
Railroading Away, Yuba Sutter Arts, Live Oak CA
- 2016 **Art Door**, Feather River College, Quincy CA
Dancing Street, Circus Circus Mural Marathon, Reno NV
Flying, Quincy Elementary School, Quincy CA
- 2014 **The Jump!**, Circus Circus Mural Marathon, Reno NV
We Are Reno, City of Reno, Reno NV

AWARDS

- 2022 Mellon Artist-in-Residence, Odyssey Project, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
 Grantee, Urbana Arts and Culture Grant, Urbana IL
- 2021 Winner, Fraser Mountain Mural Festival, Fraser CO
 Certificate of Commendation, Mayor of Frederick, MD. Michael O'Connor
- 2019 3rd Place, Mural Marathon Circus Circus Resort, Reno NV
- 2017 Certificate of Commendation, United States Senator Catherine Cortez Maestro
 Winner Lincoln Mural Competition, Lincoln CA
- 2017 2nd Place, 2017 24h Mural Marathon Circus Circus Resort, Reno NV
- 2016 2nd Place, 2016 24h Mural Marathon Circus Circus Resort, Reno NV
- 2015 3rd Place, National All Media Juried Exhibition, Chico Art Center, Chico CA
- 2014 1st Place, Painting in the World, NAU Art Museum, Flagstaff AZ
- 2014 Sharon Elizondo Special Award, Haggin Museum, Stockton CA
 2nd Place, 2014 24h Mural Marathon Circus Circus Resort, Reno NV
 Professional Development Grant, Nevada Arts Council, Reno NV
- 2013 Professional Artist Grant, Sierra Arts Gallery, Reno NV
 Outstanding International Graduate Student, University of Nevada, Reno NV
- 2012 I Visual Art Blast Winner, McKinley Cultural Center, Reno NV
 International Student Award, University of Nevada NV
 Outstanding International Graduate Student, University of Nevada, Reno NV
- 2011 Outstanding Artist Award, University of Nevada, Reno NV

EXHIBITION RECORD

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 Plumas Arts, Quincy CA
- 2015 Charleston Heights Art Center, Las Vegas, NV
 Plumas County Museum, Quincy CA
- 2014 Western Nevada College, Carson NV
 Plumas Art Gallery, Quincy CA
 Sierra Arts Gallery, Reno NV
- 2013 Stremmel Gallery, Reno NV
- 2012 Capital City Arts Initiative, Carson NV
 Bank of America Building, Reno NV

- 2012 McNamara Gallery, Reno NV
Main Art Gallery, Truckee Meadows Community College, Reno NV
- 2011 Metro Gallery, Reno City Hall, Reno NV
- 2010 La Pena Cultural Center, Berkeley CA
Selected Group Exhibitions
- 2021 En Medio, John and Geraldine Lilley Museum of Art, Reno NV
- 2019 Faculty Exhibition, Path Gallery, Elmhurst College, Elmhurst IL
- 2015 National All Media Juried Exhibition, Chico Art Center, Chico CA
- 2014 Painting in the World, Northern Arizona Univ. Art Museum, Flagstaff AZ
Haggin National Exhibition, The Haggin Museum, Stockton CA
Emergence 2014 International Artists to Watch, Myrtis Gallery, Baltimore MD
Shades of Gray, Abstract to Representation, Contemporary Art Center, Las Vegas NV
- 2014 For Whom It Stands TOO, Reginald F. Lewis Museum, Baltimore MD
- 2013 Grants to Artists Exhibition, Sierra Arts Gallery, Reno NV
- 2012 Truckee Meadows Community College Faculty Exhibition, Reno NV
Cross Section, MFA Group Exhibition, McNamara Gallery Reno NV
I Visual Art Blast, McKinley Cultural Center, Reno NV
- 2011 Lately, MFA Group Exhibition, McNamara Gallery Reno NV

MEDIA OUTREACH

- Alyse DiNapoli, *New Mural Portrays Cultural Unity*, The Daily Journal, Oct.16, 2023
Mural Project Begins at National Bowling Stadium, KTVN 2 News, Mar. 17, 2023
 Odeth Rubio, *Muralist Brings Color to C-U*, The Daily Illini, Oct. 26, 2022
Mural Ignites Communal Spark, The Humanities Research Institute, Oct. 25, 2022
 Debra Domal, *Meet Artist Behind the Urbana Mural*, Smile Politely, Aug. 12, 2022
 Amanda Brennan, *Artist Brings Buildings to Life in Urbana*, WCIA, July 28, 2022
 Joey Wright, *New Murals Add Splash of Color in Urbana*, The News-Gazette, July 7, 2022
 Sarah Page, *Just a Piece of Freedom Mural*, Shoreline Times, June 28, 2022
A Piece of Freedom to Be Painted in Old Saybrook, ZIP06, June 15, 2022
 In Plain Site, *A Prayer of Kindness*, 15 Bytes, June 1, 2022
 John Oliva, *Downtown Corpus Christi Mural Fest*, Corpus Chritsi Caller Times, May 31, 2022
 Megan Graydon, *Elmhurst Univ. Celebrates First Mural*, Chicago Tribune, May 17, 2022
 Scott Morgan, *Bold Mural*, Daily Herald, May 16, 2022
 Palak Jayswall, *South Slat Lake's mural Fest*, The Salt Lake Tribune, May 14, 2022
 Ivana Martinez, *Take a Peek at Mural Fest*, KUER 90.1, May 13, 2022
 Emmy Shaffer, *The Face of Elmhurst University*, The Leader, April 26, 2022
 Richie Requena, *Aurora's New colorful Murals*, Chicago Suntimes, Feb. 4, 2022
 Marissa Parra, *Urbana Art Taking Aurora by Storm*, CBS Chicago, Jan. 21, 2022
 Jason Crane, *Aurora's Largest Public Art Project*, The Voice, Aug. 31, 2021
 City of Aurora, *New Aurora Mural Aims to Empower Youth*, Daily Herald, Aug. 18, 2021
 Sara Sidery, *New Mural Spotlights Untold History*, WDRB Media, Aug. 19, 2021
 Salem Leaser Staff, *Mural Brings Women to Life*, Salem Leader, Aug. 19, 2021
 Sky-Hi Staff, *Health Workers Mural wins Art Festival*, Sky-High News, Aug. 9, 2021
 Maggie Polsean, *CRE8IV Mural Festival Underway*, WREX, June 17, 2021
 Karen Bossick, *Hunger Coalition Blooms with Art*, Eye on Sun Valley, June 14, 2021
 Tony Evans, *Hunger Coalition Opens New Facility*, Idaho Mountain Express, June 9, 2021

Timothy Young, *Jazz Mural*, Local DVM News, Dec 5, 2020
 Graham Cullen, *Music is Medicine*, The Frederick News-Post, Dec 2, 2020
 Luka Starmer, *Nevada's Social Justice Art*, Double Scoop, Sep 16, 2020
 Lisa McDonald, *Diversity Mural Makes Bold Statement*, Nevada Today, Sep 11, 2020
 Office of Marketing, *Celebrating Diversity & Inclusion*, Elmhurst University, Sep 4, 2020
 Isaac Hoops, *Diversity on Display*, This is Reno, August 15, 2020
 Damian Gordon, *Diversity Mural Project*, University of Nevada, Reno, August 5, 2020
 Emilie Rodriguez, *UNR's Mural Project Completed*, The Nevada Sagebrush, July 23, 2020
 UNR Diversity Mural, 2News, June 23, 2020
 Emilie Rodriguez, *University Mural Project*, The Nevada Sagebrush, June 21, 2020
 Lisa McDonald, *Murals Highlighting Diversity*, Nevada Today, June 17, 2020
 Lori Lizarraga, *Artists Braved the Cold*, 9News, Oct 27, 2019
 Heather L. Nelson, *Spotlight on Roseville Mural*, Style Magazine, Jul 25, 2019
 Lauren Westmoreland, *Muralist Begins Work*, Portola Reporter, Feb 28, 2018
 Nancy Wartik, *Go Ahead, Brag a Little*, New York Times, Feb 23, 2018
 Roxanne Vallado, *Plumas Arts Mural*, Feather River Bulletin, Jan 13th, 2018
 Chris Kaufman, *Train Mura Takes Shape in Live Oak*, Appeal Democrat, July 7th, 2017
 Joseph Munoz, *The Common Good*, KQNY, Oct. 2016
 Mari Erin Roth, *Here Today Here Tomorrow*, KQNY, May 26, 2015
 James Wilson, *Art Teacher to Showcase Artworks Questioning the Use of the Flag*, Feather River Bulletin, Nov 5, 2014
 Prof. George Speer, *The Global Narrative on Canvas*, NAU Global, Fall 2014
 Joey Postiglione, *NAU's Newest Art Exhibit*, Jack Central, Sep. 19, 2014
 Rebecca Kitchen, *24 Hour Mural Marathon*, KoloTV, July 14, 2014
 Landon Miller, *Downtown Murals*, KTVN, July 14, 2014
 Jeremy Dunn, *The Work of Art: Artown*, KNPB, May 16, 2014
 Anne Hansen, *Works Portray a Cultural and Artistic Journey*, Nevada Appeal, Feb.16, 2014
 Tyler Hersko, *The Need to Create*, Nevada Sagebrush, Jan.28, 2014
 Deborah Bohem, *The Universality of Daily Experience*, Capital City Arts Initiative, Aug.2012
 Brad Bynum, *Living in America*, Reno News&Reviews, Feb.23, 2012
 Geralda Miller, *Painting Over the Lines*, Reno Gazette Journal, Feb.12, 2012
 Montse Gonzalez, *Viviendo en 'el Norte'*, El Sol de Nevada, Feb.8, 2012

PERMANENT & PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Northern Arizona University Art Museum, Permanent Collection, Flagstaff AZ
 Truckee Meadows Community College, Permanent Collection, Reno NV
 University of Nevada, Reno, Permanent Collection, Reno NV
 Western Nevada College, Permanent Collection, Carson NV
 City of Reno, Permanent Art Collection, Reno NV
 Nunez Family, Private Collection, Madrid, Spain
 Crowley Family, Private Collection, Reno NV
 La Pena Cultural Center, Permanent Collection, Berkeley CA
 Duggan Family, Private Collection, Oakland CA
 Alipaz Family, Private Collection, Lafayette CA
 Christner Family, Private Collection, Stuttgart, Germany
 Gouldby Family, Oxford, England

INSTRUCTED LECTURES

- 2023 Ditching the Studio, TEDx Elmhurst University, IL
- 2022 My unexpected Journey into Public Art, Visiting Artist, York Highschool, Elmhurst IL
 Learning How to See, Visiting Artist, York Highschool, Elmhurst IL
 My unexpected Journey into Public Art, Visiting Lecturer, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst IL
 My unexpected Journey into Public Art, Urbana Public Library, Urbana IL
- 2021 The Life of a Public Artist, Visiting Artist Lecture, Salem High School, Salem IN
- 2015 Chiaroscuro Self-Portrait, Painting Workshop, Saint Mary's Art Center, Virginia City, NV
- 2014 Rite of Passage, Visiting Artist Lecture, Western Nevada College, Carson NV
- 2013 Framing Identity, MFA Thesis Lecture, University of Nevada, Reno NV
- 2013 Learning How to 'See', Lecturer, Professional Development, Truckee Meadows
 Community College, Reno NV
- 2013 Learning How to 'See', Lecturer, TMCC Classified Symposium, Truckee Meadows
 Community College, Reno NV
- 2012 Learning How to 'See', Lecturer, Nevada Community College Conference, College of
 Southern Nevada, Las Vegas NV
 Painting Timelessness, Lecturer, CLAGS Graduate Symposium, University of Nevada,
 Reno NV
 Painting Identity, Lecturer, Mixed Blessing Symposium, Truckee Meadows Community
 College, Reno NV

UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE ART COURSES TAUGHT

Art Appreciation
 Visual foundations
 2-Dimesional Art
 Color Theory
 Drawing I, II, Intermediate & Advance
 Figure Drawing
 Painting I, II, Intermediate & Advance
 Survey of Western Art
 Survey History of Modern & Contemporary Art
 Capstone Exhibition

PUBLIC SERVICE

2019-Present Aurora Public Art Committee, Aurora IL

LANGUAGES:

English: Fluent
 Spanish: Fluent