

# MARY CLARE RIETZ

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**BORN** 1964, Akron, Ohio

**LIVES** Cincinnati, OH

## **EDUCATION** Culminating in Degree

2016

Master of Fine Arts

University of Cincinnati, DAAP, School of Art  
Cincinnati, Ohio

1987

Bachelor of Social Work with a second major in English – *summa cum laude*

Xavier University Scholars Program

Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio

## **EDUCATION** Toward Degree and Other

2012

Oil painting

University of Cincinnati, DAAP, School of Art  
Cincinnati, Ohio

2000–2001

Undergraduate studio art foundations courses

University of Toledo

Toledo, Ohio

1993–2013

Community art classes (incl. Toledo Museum of Art, Art Academy of Cincinnati)

Toledo, Ohio and Cincinnati, Ohio

## **AWARDS**

2016

University of Cincinnati, DAAP, School of Art

Outstanding Graduate Award, Master of Fine Arts

2016

DAAP Cares Award, Master of Fine Arts

2016

Ludwig and Anna Woseczek Scholarship

2014

Wolfstein Travel Fellowship

2013–2016

University Graduate Scholarships

## **COLLABORATIVE WORKS and COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS**

2018

*As My Neighbor Moves*

Collaboration with Kim Popa/Pones, and seventy community stakeholders.

Thirteen groups of Northside neighbors joined by Pones dancers to perform *Participation and Connection*, ideas that Northsiders say are central to the joyous and wonderful, challenging and imperfect work of living in a changing community. Neighborhood performers used hand-torn and knotted fabric strands, re-purposed from clothing, linens, and other remnants that they deconstructed and re-made, to connect within and across groups as they moved from each of their thirteen places, through Northside streets, into Hoffner Park, and on to PAR-Projects art space.

2018

*Not to Scale*

Collaboration with forty-five Eastside, Covington stakeholders who, in the cold of winter, climbed the Licking River floodwall to put on two live performances –

one in daylight, featuring music, color, and movement; the other after dark, featuring light and voice. The highest landform in their neighborhood and its eastern boundary, community performers used the floodwall as a stage, seeing its potential to elevate anyone and anything on top of it to greater visibility. They celebrated their history, described their present, and proclaimed their vision for a future with restored and renewed resources for all, in their deep-rooted and well-loved place.

- 2017-ongoing *Storefronts*  
A series of art installations – including performative works *Vigil* and *Radio!* – challenging dominant social, economic, and political narratives attempting to define Over-the-Rhine and other Cincinnati neighborhoods. Three windows at the Miami University Center for Community Engagement storefront space were converted to an artist-, student-, and community-run platform where performance, sound, photography, writing, and other media invite neighbors and visitors to engage with challenging issues impacting civic life.
- 2017 \_\_\_\_\_ *IS A WOMEN'S ISSUE!*  
Participatory poster project originally created for the 2017 Washington DC and Cincinnati Women's Marches. A continuing engagement that supports participation and voice at protests and rallies in Cincinnati and beyond.
- 2016 *Threshold*  
Collaboration with Pones Inc. in *Graphic*, Cincinnati Fringe Festival. Performance, encounter, engagement, dialogue among neighborhood resident performers and their audiences, using spoken word, prompt questions, responses, graffiti, re-used doors, and social network platforms to invite awareness and critical consideration of conflicting narratives of life in rapidly gentrifying Over-the- Rhine, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 2014–2016 *On The Map|Over-the-Rhine*  
Guided walks, mapping, story-telling, performance, hand-built objects that support interaction, all used by neighborhood people, with each other, as means of forming cross-difference relationships in a transitioning urban community, toward an artist and participant-envisioned future that includes equitable development. Over-the-Rhine, Cincinnati, Ohio, and including two projects, *Seat at the table* and *Who do you want to move?* in MFA thesis show, Spring 2016, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 2016 *Outside/In*  
Public work for *DC Live: Artist Walks*, 2016 CAA (College Art Association). Three-part guided walk in DC with simultaneous multimedia/interactive presence at CAA conference, Washington, DC.
- 2013 *The Caregivers' Circle Project*  
Collaborative work – processes, materials, objects, supporting organizing among low-income women of color in caregiving roles, Cincinnati, Ohio. Commissioned/funded by Center for Community Change, Washington, DC.

## CONTRACT WORK

- 2017–18      *Listen*  
A project of the Contemporary Arts Center and Wave Pool Gallery, aimed at introducing Cincinnati to social practice art by bringing to town artists with depth and breadth of experience in the field. Hired to assist NYC-based artist Caroline Woolard in her collaborations with four local community organizations in the design and making of objects which support listening practices that the groups use or aspire to develop.
- 2017      Peaslee Neighborhood Center Mural Project  
Created and facilitated a participatory mural design process that engaged all constituencies of the Peaslee community: neighborhood leaders, youth and their parents, founders, board, staff, and building tenants.
- 2016      *The Answer*, PSA  
Co-Producer/Community Engagement  
For Mel Chin Studio's Fundred/Operation Paydirt  
Cincinnati, Ohio

## VOLUNTEER WORK

- 2017      The Community Engagement Collective  
Artists and other creatives invited by the Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center to advise the CAC on community engagement goals, planning, and projects, and to create a network that supports and cultivates quality socially engaged art
- 2017–ongoing      Art & Equitable Development (AED)  
Cross-sector group that is developing projects in which art supports grass-roots community organizing for citywide adoption of equitable development policies and practices in Cincinnati

## LECTURES/WORKSHOPS/PANELS/EVENTS

- 2018      FotoFocus 2018  
(forthcoming)      Exploration with a community collaborator the what, why, how, and who of creating best-scenario socially engaged art work that centers the life experiences of those most impacted by whatever issue, situation, or systemic force the art work addresses.  
Lacey Haslam, Curator  
Archive of Creative Culture/Archive Argosy Airstream  
Camp Washington, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2018      The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pedagogy and Theater of the Oppressed Conference  
Co-presented *Storefronts* inaugural work *Vigil*, with Dionna “DeeDee” Flowers, neighborhood collaborator and *Vigil* performer; 2017 Miami University Center for Community Engagement (MU CCE) student DeAngela Weakley; and John Blake, Professor of Engagement, MU CCE  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA

2016 *Art & Power – Community Practices, Public Art & Experiential Learning*  
MACAA (Mid-America College Art Association) Annual Conference  
Presented, “Does Knowing Me Make a Difference? Relationships, Power &  
Equitable Development”  
University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

Creative Time Summit Live Stream  
Produced two days of live stream, including community screening, dinner,  
and discussion of Alicia Garza’s keynote  
In collaboration with Wave Pool and ArtsWave, Cincinnati, Ohio

2015 “community organizer social worker designer developer ARTIST”  
Panel member, on artistic practice in changing communities  
Wave Pool Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio

“On The Map|Over-The-Rhine”  
2015 Open Engagement – Place and Revolution  
Pittsburgh, PA, April 19

## EXHIBITIONS

2018 *Cincinnati 5*  
One of five jury-selected Cincinnati artists for this annual book and show  
produced by Emily Moores. *As My Neighbor Moves* live performance, and  
resulting installation and video, in collaboration with Kim Popa/Pones, and  
seventy Northside neighborhood stakeholders, were produced for this show  
PAR-Projects  
Cincinnati, Ohio

2018 *Not to Scale*  
With artist and Covington native Anissa Lewis, and residents of the Eastside,  
Covington neighborhood. Show included video and manifesto resulting from  
floodwall performances held earlier that year  
The Carnegie  
Covington, KY

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2017 *Speak Truth*  
Madisonville Arts Center  
Cincinnati, Ohio

2017 *Mary Mary*  
Indigo Hippo  
Cincinnati, Ohio

2017 *The Gathering Space*  
Wave Pool Gallery  
Cincinnati, Ohio

- Still They Persist: Protest Art of the 2017 Women's Marches*  
Wave Pool Gallery  
Cincinnati, Ohio
- 9x18: The Parking Lot Art Experiment*  
Wave Pool Gallery  
Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2016 *Better Than Art*  
MACAA and Modern Makers  
Cincinnati, Ohio
- Tiger Lily Prints*  
Clay Street Press  
Cincinnati, Ohio
- PolyMORPH*  
840 Gallery  
College of DAAP, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2015 *One & Done*  
Rare View Gallery  
College of DAAP, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 3 Weeks, 13 Women, 93 Works*  
Sanskriti Kendra, New Delhi, India  
and Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
- 2014 *Reconnoitre: A Show of Current MFA Students*  
Rare View Gallery  
College of DAAP, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio
- [Enjoy] The Show*  
EASE Gallery  
Columbus, Ohio
- Communal Ties*  
840 Gallery  
College of DAAP, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2014 *xCHANGE CINCINNATI, Featured Artist*  
Clifton Cultural Arts Center  
Cincinnati, Ohio
- Somatic Perceptions*  
840 Gallery  
College of DAAP, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2013 *POP-UP art: Temporary & Surprising Experiences*  
Short Vine St. pop-up galleries, Cincinnati, Ohio

*I Like That!*  
The Edge House  
University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

*Post-It II*  
840 Gallery  
College of DAAP, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

*Visible Voices*  
Kennedy Heights Arts Center  
Cincinnati, Ohio

*S.O.S. Art 2013*  
Art Academy of Cincinnati  
Cincinnati, Ohio

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – COMMUNITY ORGANIZING and other**

- 2006–2013 Campaign Organizer, Ohioans for Health, Environment and Justice (project of Center for Health, Environment and Justice), and Founding Board Member, Coordinator, Ohio Alliance for People & Environment
- 2007–2008 Climate Reality Project Presenter  
Among first 1000 trained by Al Gore to present climate crisis slide/video show  
Nashville, Tennessee, and Ohio
- 2005–2006 Interim Director/Consultant, Contact Center  
Over-the-Rhine, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2004 Coordinator, Voter Project, Contact Center  
Over-the-Rhine, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2001–2003 Founder and Director, Building Relationships toward Racial Harmony  
Toledo, Ohio
- 1997 Freelance Grant Writer, St. Mark's Episcopal Church/Family Outreach Churches  
United in Service  
Toledo, Ohio
- 1994–1996 Owner And Operator, Yumbodies Baking Company  
Toledo, Ohio
- 1988–1993 Executive Director, Collingwood Springs Redevelopment Corporation/  
Neighborhoods In Partnership  
Toledo, Ohio
- 1987 Community Organizer and Assistant Director, North Toledo Area Corporation  
Toledo, Ohio