

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 ART WORK and COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

2017-2022

Storefronts Facilitating Artist

Recruited to develop an art collaborative comprised of neighborhood residents, grass-roots organizations, students, faculty, and artists, based at the Miami University Center for Community Engagement in Over-the-Rhine, Cincinnati.

A community-, student-, and artist-run platform where performance, sound, photography, writing, sculpture, and video invited neighbors and visitors to engage with challenging issues impacting civic life.

Artworks and shows produced include *Vigil*, *Radio!*, *Wonderland*, *Time for an Update?*, *BlackLiberation*, *Input as Poetry*, and *People Moving* (the latter in group show [Artist Run Spaces](#), Contemporary Arts Center, 2022)

2018

Cincinnati 5 — *As My Neighbor Moves*

Jury-selected as one of five Cincinnati artists whose work to exemplifies the 2018 theme: Collaboration. Produced with Kim Popa/Pones, and seventy community stakeholders. Thirteen groups of Northside neighbors joined

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 de-constructed 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 _____ *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

- 2021 Fernside Program Evaluation
Recruited to a small consultant team facilitating the first-ever program and organizational evaluation for the Fernside Center for Grieving Children—the second oldest center of its kind in the country. Worked with executive and program staff, board, funders, and volunteers to design and implement creative methods for qualitative evaluation of Fernside support groups.
- 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 ENGAGEMENTS

- 2020 Cincinnati Art Museum Hank Willis Thomas Community Steering Committee
Artists and other community members selected by CAM curatorial and community education and engagement staff to help shape the 2020 exhibit, "Hank Willis Thomas: All Things Being Equal," including artwork didactics, and museum and community-based programming.
- 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
- 2017–2018 Art & Neighborhood Development (A.N.D.)
Co-convenor of cross-sector group that designed concepts for projects in which art could support grass-roots community organizing for citywide adoption of equitable development policies and practices in Cincinnati

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS/PANELS

- 2019 Midwest Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit
"Performing Possibility: Three Public Works by Residents in Transitioning Neighborhoods" Organized, facilitated, and co-presented with community collaborators from three Greater-Cincinnati urban neighborhoods our processes of developing, producing, and performing three public artworks, and the role these works played in challenging dominant narratives and investment patterns

by using art to name, proclaim, keep, and/or transform the places we call home.

- 2018 FotoFocus 2018
“Lives as Archive,” a shared exploration with *Not to Scale* community collaborator Michelle Slaughter of the what, why, how, and who of creating best-scenario socially engaged art 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 23rd 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
“Does Knowing Me Make a Difference? Relationships, Power, & Equitable Development”
University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Creative Time Summit Live Stream
Produced community screening, facilitated conversations, and hosted 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
- Mary Mary*
Indigo Hippo
Cincinnati, Ohio
- 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
- 2013 *Visible Voices*
Kennedy Heights Arts Center
Cincinnati, Ohio
- S.O.S. Art 2013*
Art Academy of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

PRIOR 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/Neighborhoods In Partnership
Toledo, Ohio
- 1987 Community Organizer and Assistant Director, North Toledo Area Corporation
Toledo, Ohio