

John Rawlings Artist Statement 2024

“I’ve been an artist and teacher for 50 years. I have always believed that to teach art with any sense of validity one must be constantly involved in the making of it. What this means is that I have been a practitioner for quite a long time, and the end product is a proficiency and skill level that is predictable; even expected. When I produce a piece of artwork, I simply put these skills to work. After 50 years, I honestly don’t have the faintest idea what creativity means, and don’t have much time for those who speak about creativity and inspiration.

I simply go to work.

However, I believe that the ‘spirit’ of art is in every human and is a manifestation of some subconscious knowledge that we are all a part of the one thing... Are connected to this universe that surrounds us. When human beings are touched by beauty, either in the natural world or in the works of artists, they are recognizing this connection, most often unconsciously, and I believe that this reaffirmation is the most important function of the arts.

In my studio, there is a photograph of my son taken when he was visiting Nepal. He is walking along a wall of prayer wheels, spinning them as he passes. This sends the prayer “Om Mani Padme Hum” (May all life live as one) back into the universe, and that because this prayer sustains and nourishes, it MUST be said. Someone must say it. I believe every artwork is in fact a prayer, and no matter how inconsequential and trivial, I believe my efforts produce a prayer that awaits some viewer to come along and spin it.
Someone has to say the prayer.”

JOHN G. RAWLINGS

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EDUCATION

B.Ed. Secondary. Fine Arts

Torrens College, Adelaide, South Australia, 1974.

MFA Sculpture

Instituto Allende, University of Guanajuato, Mexico, 1977.

Summa cum Laude

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Professor Emeritus FVCC

2014 Retired from full time duties

Fall 1993 to Fall 2014

Director Art Department / Professor of Art

Director, Semester in Venice Program

Flathead Valley Community College

Kalispell, Montana. Instructing classes in Art History, Drawing, Life Drawing, Design, Painting,

Intaglio, Methods Elementary Art Teaching, Coordinating semester abroad program in Venice, Italy

Fall and spring 1992-1993

Part-time Instructor University of Montana

Extension Classes...FVCC Campus, History of Italian Renaissance Art.

June 1988-Fall 1993

Part-time Instructor Flathead Valley Community College, Kalispell, Montana

Instructing classes in Painting, Drawing, Design, and Life Drawing.

September 1981-June 1988

Associate Professor University of Alaska, Southeast Sitka, Alaska

Director of Art Department, Sitka and Extended Campus. Taught 12 credit load including Art History and Humanities. Initiated short workshops for outreach area and traveled extensively to the villages of Southeast Alaska. Organized and scheduled part-time teachers and supervised standardization of course outlines and proposals. Chaired and served on committees as assigned.

Academic year 1985-1986

Visiting Professor-Sculpture

Studio Art Centers International Florence, Italy

Tutor for Independent Study projects in stone carving.

September 1979-May 1981

Instructor/Coordinator

Art Department Northwest Community College Powell, Wyoming

Taught 15 credit hours per week including Art History. Coordinator of Art Department-responsible directly to Fine Arts Division Chairman. Initiated and directed Northwest Gallery and curated 8 exhibitions per year.

Supervised part-time faculty, office secretary and work-study janitorial help. Chaired and served on Instruction Committee. Prepared budget for the Art Department.

May 1977-May 1979

Art Teacher

Red Cloud Indian School Pine Ridge, South Dakota

Taught in the High School. Responsible for small budget and all art materials.

Coordinated Native American workshops and supervised part-time instructors.

Taught part-time, Oglalla Community College.

Fall Semester 1976

Instructor, Instituto Allende/University of Guanajuato, San Miguel de Allende, GTO, Mexico

Coordinator of Sculpture Department. Metal Fabrication. Wood and stone carving and bronze foundry. Taught 6-credit load. Supervised foundry workers, janitorial staff and MFA sculpture program.

Sept. 1964 - Dec. 1975 Art Teacher Westminster School Marion, South Australia

Taught in both High School and Preparatory School. Coordinator of growing department and responsible for budget and curriculum. Served on various committees.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2014.....Faculty show FVCC Art Department

2013.....Faculty show FVCC Art Department

2012.....Faculty show FVCC Art Department

2011.....Faculty show FVCC Art Department

2010.....Faculty show FVCC Art Department

2009.....Faculty show FVCC Art Department

2008.....Faculty show FVCC Art Department

2006.....Cairo Biennale....Cairo, Egypt

2005.....Faculty Show....Hockaday Center for the Arts

2004....."Montana Modern"...Hockaday Center for the Arts

2003....."The Bear Affair"..... Whitefish, MT

2001....."New Works".....O'Shaughnessy Theater, Whitefish, MT

2001....."We went to Venice ... and you didn't" ... Whitefish Gallery MT

2001....."Weather Vane Exhibition"....Whitefish MT

2000..... "Moose on the Loose"Whitefish MT

2000....."Magical Lamps Exhibition"...."The Studio," Whitefish, MT

1999....."Clocks Exhibition"....."The Studio," Whitefish, MT

1998....."Bird Houses Exhibition"....."The Studio," Whitefish, MT

1997....."Mailbox Exhibition"....."The Studio," Whitefish, MT

1990.....Olympiad of the Arts, Villa Montalvo Gallery, Saratoga, California
Juror's Special Mention.

1990..... Saratoga Rotary Art Show, Saratoga, California.

1989.....Flathead Valley Christmas Invitational Exhibition, Hockaday Center for
the Arts, Kalispell, Montana.

1988..... Univ. of Alaska, Faculty Exhibition, Alaska State Museum, Juneau, AK.

1987..... New Works, 3 Sitka Artists, Sitka Medical Center, Sitka, AK.

1986.....Association of Foreign Academic Programs in Florence Exhibition,
Strozzi Palace, Florence, Italy. Awarded First Place for Sculpture.

1982..... College Art Faculty Exhibition, Centennial Building, Sitka, AK.

1981.....Faculty Exhibition, North West Gallery, Powell, WY.

1980.....Faculty Exhibition, North West Gallery, Powell, WY.

1979.....Wyoming Citizens for the Arts Powell, WY.

1978.....High Plains Art Competition, Chadron State College, Chadron, Nebraska First prize,

1976.....Faculty Exhibition, Pergola Gallery, Instituto Allende, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

1975.....Student Gallery, South Australian School of Art, Adelaide, S. Australia.

1974.....Photography Exhibition, Student Gallery, South Australian School of Art, Adelaide, S.A.

1973.....Photography Exhibition, Student Gallery, South Australian School of Art, Adelaide, S.A.

1972..... Student Gallery, South Australian School Art.

1971..... Aldgate Crafts Gallery, Adelaide, S.A.

1970..... Student Gallery, S. A. School of Art.

1969..... Student Gallery, S. A. School of Art.

1968.....Student Gallery, S. A. School of Art

1967.....Student Gallery, S. A. School of Art.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2013.....Collage Gallery of Fine Art, Bigfork, Montana

2012.....Student Gallery. Flathead High School, Kalispell, Montana

2011.....Jest Gallery, Whitefish, Montana

2008.....Jest Gallery, Whitefish, Montana

2006.....Chase Gallery, Spokane, Washington

2006.....Hockaday Museum of Art, Kalispell, Montana

2005.....Jest Gallery, Whitefish, Montana

2002.....Jest Gallery, Whitefish , Montana

2001.....Gilman Studio, Whitefish, Montana
2001.....Whitefish Gallery, Whitefish, Montana
1998.....The Studio, Whitefish, Montana
1981.....Eastern Montana College, Billings, Montana.
1980.....Cody Country Art League, Cody, Wyoming.
1978.....Little Gallery, Black Hills State College, Spearfish, S. Dakota.
1978.....Campus Gallery, Chadron State College, Chadron, Nebraska.
1976.....Pergola Gallery, Instituto Allende, Mexico
1975.....Union Gallery, University of Adelaide, South Australia.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

2014...Recipient of ACCT Faculty Award, Chicago...one of 5 awardees from 1,200
Community Colleges in the US and Canada.
2006...Selected to be one of the featured artists at the Cairo International
Biennale Cairo, Egypt...December 2006
2002...Represented Montana at the US National Snow Sculpture Contest, Lake
Geneva, WI
2001...Member of Montana Snow Sculpture Champion Team
1997...Received Art Educator of the year award from Hockaday Museum of Art
(first person to receive two of these awards)
1994...Received Art Educator of the Year Award from Hockaday Museum of Art
1990...Olympiad of the Arts, Villa Montalvo, Saratoga, California
Juror's Award, Sculpture
1986...Association of Foreign Academic Programs Exhibit, First Prize
Sculpture, Strozzi Palace, Florence, Italy
1984...Outstanding Program Award, University of Alaska

John Rawlings currently lives in old Mesilla, NM and works from his studio he shares with his wife, Art & Soul. John was a recent recipient of first place sculpture prize in the ArtForms member show Feb 2, 2024 For the Love of Art Month.

REPRESENTED IN THE COLLECTIONS OF:

Sedky Collection, Seattle, Washington

Flathead Valley Community College

Hockaday Museum of Art, Kalispell, Montana

Kalispell Regional Hospital, Kalispell, Montana

North Valley Hospital, Whitefish, Montana

University of Alaska, Sitka, Alaska

Florida State University-Florence Program, Florence, Italy

Eastern Montana College, Billings, Montana

Northwest Community College, Powell, Wyoming

Red Cloud Collection, Pine Ridge, South Dakota

Black Hills State College, Spearfish, South Dakota

Chadron State College, Chadron, Nebraska

Instituto Allende, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

Westminster School, Adelaide, South Australia

University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia

REFERENCES

Richard Griffin PhD,
Northridge Dr. Kalispell Mt 59901 (406) 249-7801

David Regan MFA, Assistant Professor Art FVCC
777 Grandview Drive. Kalispell MT 59901, dregan@fvcc.edu (406) 756-3993

Edward Myers PhD, 180 West Valley Acres, Kalispell, MT 59901, wvacres@aol.com (406) 249-2783

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