

RON RODRIGUEZ - BIOGRAPHY

Ron Rodriguez is a Michigan artist, working out of Highland Park. He has the ability to draw inspiration from anywhere or anything, building or unfolding things in his mind or hands. His most current sculptural works lean toward social commentary, while his prints and drawings are very introspective.

Ron attended Eastern Michigan University, where he received his BFA with a concentration in printmaking. With each class, he learned new mediums and techniques that would be mentally stored and employed on a variety of projects at different vocations throughout the rest of his working life.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in 1995, Ron Rodriguez began working for a large decorative arts studio based in NYC. He first worked for this employer on the interior restoration of the Music Hall in Detroit. The success of this project and Ron's contribution to it, led to his participation on many additional historic theater renovations and large scale murals in several major cities within the United States.

After a few years had passed, Ron decided to start his own company for decorative painting. And because he likes to create and build, Ron began making custom cabinetry, retrofitting existing spaces, cabinets, or furniture. In the following years, Ron would work for a construction company that primarily dealt with residential insurance work. The tasks that he was responsible for, allowed Ron to use a wide range of materials and tools. Problem solving with foresight and the durability of the project continue to be key considerations in all of Ron's creations, artistic or otherwise.

In 2012, Mr. Rodriguez began working as a clay sculptor for a global automaker. This new vocation has helped to add to Ron's skillset and boosted the quantity of tools and materials that he uses for his own personal artwork.

In 2018, Ron became a resident of the 333 Midland Art Studios, where he continues to work in many different media, simultaneously. He is an artist member at the Detroit Artist Market, and Ron has been regularly utilizing many classes and workshops, which give him access to equipment and to processes that further his artistic ambitions. While at 333, Ron has sold original works to private collectors, including a very large, framed charcoal drawing on the eve of the opening Gala for Collected Detroit. And In April of 2019, an oversized charcoal of Ron's had been awarded "Best in Show" at "All Together Now: A Celebration of Art, Film, & Music". This was an exhibition that had an international call for entries.

RON RODRIGUEZ – ARTIST STATEMENT

I call myself an artist. As a sculptor, I love to paint. As a printmaker, I love to sculpt. As a painter, I love to draw. When creating art, I allow myself the freedom to alter the meaning or visual directions of my work as it is evolving. I get pleasure from this.

I enjoy working both 3 dimensionally and 2 dimensionally, and in a wide range of materials. I've found that there is a wonderful overlap in techniques in many of the media that I practice. This usually serves me well as a starting point for the next piece that I am to start, typically before I'd finished the last. All materials are on the table. I have to pick and choose which ones are the best to use for the effect that I want and the possible environment in which the works will reside.

For my participation in this exhibition, I have several sculptures which are directed at the times in which we live, and the harsh realities that we face. I don't have a solution, I only have my ideas and my work.

I am also very proud to introduce an "initial found object" work that I'd recently completed. "Wonder Horse" is my interpretation of man's historical quest for truth, spirituality, and a higher purpose. This is most definitely a great example of an evolving work. I did not hold myself to a preconceived mental image, but rather let the allegory unfold as things were cut, cast, fastened, welded, and painted.

The 2D work, that I'm exhibiting, are exercising emotional wounds from past decades. Now, I am in a much better, healthier place. But thoughts still rattle around in my head, awakening negative emotions. I put them to good use. I do love a sad song.

With the exception of "The Promise of Spring", the works that I have brought here are current. Their translations stem from my response to man's injustice and cruelty toward one another or our planet, and others have meanings that were pulled from a younger, more self-destructive me. I haven't decided whether or not that doing this work is healthy for me or not.