

Ruth A. Block, MA, MFA

Summary

As an exhibiting artist and art instructor with 30 years experience, Ruth Block imparts her knowledge through the art of teaching, curriculum development and consultation. Outreaching to students with accessible difficulties, she created Artists InterActive Video Productions, producing several series of instructional workshops. Available around the globe in numerous settings since 1988, these award-winning programs continue their timeless viability as they are now being translated into DVD format. Training and experience from early years as a Mental Health Counselor bring additional depth and understanding to the expressive needs of students and artists from numerous backgrounds on their quests toward fulfillment/success.

"While instructing techniques, I'm also interested in linking students to their rich expressive heritage and contexts of culture, community and our humanity. I am especially interested in sharing the gifts of the creative process—including the responsibility- of being an artist." (See Art Exhibition Listing and websites www.ruthblock.com and www.aivideo.com.)

Art Instructor

1969—Present

- 4/06 - present** **The Art Institute of California-San Francisco**, Full-time Faculty & Lead Drawing Instructor for Media Arts and Animation: Advanced Expressive Life Drawing (MFA level), Anatomy, Color Theory, Life Drawing & Gesture, Drawing Fundamentals/Observational, Painting, Portfolio Committee & Review, Curriculum/Program Development.
- 1/03-4/06 **The Art Institute of California-San Francisco**, Part-time Faculty. Advanced Life Drawing, Anatomy, Color Theory, Life Drawing & Gesture, Drawing Fundamentals/Observational, Painting, Painting Club (Temp. sub: Psychology).
- 9/99-3/06
2/89-8/93 **Studio One Art Center**, Oakland, CA. Coordinator, Drawing & Painting Department (Chair). Fundamentals, Life Drawing, and Painting classes and workshops in various media, beginning through advanced students, all ages.
- 4/99-5/03 **Richmond Art Center**, Richmond, CA. Anatomy for Artists, Classic & Expressive Life Drawing, Figure Painting, all media, and Painting Techniques.
- 10/99-6/01 **West Contra Costa Adult Ed.**, Richmond, CA. Acrylics Techniques, Basic Drawing & Composition, Landscape Drawing and Painting, and Watercolor.
- 6/00-1/01 **Civic Arts**, Walnut Creek. Painting the Figure in Watercolor classes and Workshops.
- 5/00-8/00 **ASUC Art Studio** (UC Berkeley Auxiliary). Watercolor classes.
- 9/97-6/98 **Visual Arts Center**, Roswell, GA. Art Awakening, Life Drawing, Painting the Figure in Watercolor, and Sculpting the Figure in Clay.
- 4/96-6/96 **University of New Mexico, Continuing Education**, Albuquerque, NM. Landscape Drawing and Painting.
- 1/95-6/96 **Harwood Art Center**, Albuquerque, NM. Figure Painting, all media.

- 1/94–5/95 **New Mexico Art League**, Albuquerque, NM. Basic Drawing, Color and Composition, Figure Painting in all media, Life Drawing, and all levels of Watercolor.
- 11/93–1/95 **Art Masters Academy** and **The Art School**, Albuquerque, NM. Drawing Anatomy, Introduction to Painting, Oil & Acrylic, and Watercolor.
- 9/85–9/89 **Berkeley Adult School**, Berkeley, CA. (Department Chair) Drawing, Color & Composition (Basic Design I & II), Figure Painting, Landscape Drawing and Painting, Life Drawing, and Studio Techniques and Critiques.

Project Director/Chair/Gallery Manager

1985—Present

- 8/99-9/99 **City of Richmond Multi Cultural Millennium Festival. Co-coordinator/Director** of Festival Mural Project. Included training, supervising and assisting local artists working with 28 civic organization participants in designing and painting 28 8'x4' mural panels for the festival and later used as temporary and permanent public art installations in Richmond, CA.
- 4/98-8/99 **Temple Kehillat Chaim, Roswell, GA. Artistic Coordinator/Director** for Sanctuary Enhancement Project, including design work for series of 6'x3' fabric wall hangings slated to be sewn by members of congregation and installed upon completion of new sanctuary.
- 1/95-1/96 **Harwood Art Center, Educational Coordinator.** Initiated adult art program and expanded children's after school art programs. Served as liaison to University of New Mexico and gallery manager for exhibitions.
- 1/94-5/95 **New Mexico Art League, Educational Chair.** Designed, evaluated, scheduled classes. Managed student exhibitions. Represented department at Board meetings. Wrote newsletter articles and served as public relations liaison and Chief Curator for Special Exhibitions. Coordinated after-school arts programs.
- 4/92-10/92 **Coordinator/Director and Chief Curator of The Fire Art Project.** Conceived and coordinated over 42 exhibitions and performance events in 38 Bay Area venues commemorating the 1991 Oakland/Berkeley Hills fire. Supervised staff of 29, and served as spokesperson during local and national media coverage. (Note: Award Nominee for Oakland Business Arts)
- 9/85-9/89 **Berkeley Adult School. Art Department Chair.** Supervised art instructors, scheduled classes, set fees, and managed student shows and public relations events.

Performance Artist/Conceptual Art Production

1965—Present

1988—Present Artist's InterActive Video Owner/Producer. (See www.aivideo.com.)

Conceptualized, directed, produced, and performed as instructor in 8 instructional video workshops used as a full course of college-level Classic Life Drawing, and two instructional video workshops in Painting the Figure in Watercolor. Choreographed and introduced two video programs of Classical Model Poses. Designed and/or co-designed/ directed all programs, brochures, set designs, and advertising. Created simulated classrooms, including nude and draped models, accessible via video/DVD format. Available privately and in numerous colleges/universities and libraries throughout the United States and internationally. (Note: Award Ten Best Teacher's on Tape by *The Artist's Magazine*)

1994-1998 **Awakening the Artist Within—Performance/Presentation Events and Workshops**, Roswell, GA, and Albuquerque NM. Conceptualized, and facilitated interactive events with audiences and participants using performance art, group dynamics and creative process exercises.

Exhibiting Artist

1977—Present

Featured artist in 34 solo exhibitions, both domestically and abroad. Achieved gallery representation in 11 galleries in four states, including exhibitions as featured artist. Exhibited artwork in six juried shows and 18 group shows in several states.

(See www.ruthblock.com. Refer to Exhibitions Listings for details.)

Education

- **Master of Fine Arts**, Studio Arts, 2004. **John F. Kennedy University**, Berkeley/Orinda/Pleasant Hill & Berkeley, CA
- **Adult Education Certification**, 1989 **University of California Extension**, Berkeley, California
- Master of Fine Arts Program, 1978-1979. **Instituto Allende**, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico
- **Master of Arts**, Guidance and Counseling, 1972. **Michigan State University**, East Lansing, MI
- **Bachelor of Arts**, Art Education and Teacher Certification, Secondary, 1969. **Michigan State University**

Additional Art Studies

- Art Institute of Chicago (Drawing and Sculpture)
- Belles Artes, Mexico (Photography)
- Bronze Casting Apprenticeship with Jerry Goss, Camel Barnes, Benitia, CA
- Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA. (Printmaking Workshops)
- Laney and Merrit Colleges, Oakland, CA (Drawing Anatomy, Portraiture, Sculpture)
- National Music Camp, Interlochen, MI (Painting, Dance and Vocal Arts)
- Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA (Ceramics and Sculpture)
- Studio One Art Center, Oakland, CA (Drawing, Painting and Sculpture)

Awards and Accolades

(Refer to Article and Review Listing for additional recognition documentation.)

- Artist in Residence, Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA. 2001-2003
- Marquis *Who's Who of American Women*, Listing Since 1995
- Best in Show two consecutive months, New Mexico Art League, 1996
- Oakland Business Arts Award Nomination, 1993
- Ten Best Teachers on Tape, *The Artists Magazine*, 1991
- First Place in Sculpture, Richmond Art Center Annual Juried Show, 1983

*Additional Performance & Interests: Music & Dance:

1965-1993 Vocal and guitar, solo and group performance in numerous venues.

On-going Various forms of movement and dance out of necessity and just for fun. (Ballroom, Belly-dance, Tai Chi, Yoga, etc.)