

VicToria Neal Ralston

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Education

Master of Fine Arts 1996, Visual Arts, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Post Baccalaureate 1990-1992, Ceramics, Painting, Installation Art, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Bachelor of Arts 1985, Psychology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Areas of Specialization

Interdisciplinary Arts, Art History, Studio and Process Oriented Arts, Cultural Arts, Environmental Arts.

Teach Art History, Sculpture, Painting, Mixed Media Arts, Performance Art, Ceramics, Puppetry, and Design.

Grant Writing, Public Speaking, Marketing, Arts Administration, Organizational Skills, and Museum Work.

Collaboration, including: Planning, Designing, Educating, Speaking, Performance.

Extensive Experience Teaching Students, including: gifted, disadvantaged and at-risk, community youth through adult, public school education K-12, university level.

Arts Media and Materials, Film Studies, Photoshop elements.

Organizing Festivals, including Film, Visual Arts, Poetry, and Music in community settings to large audiences.

Theater Technology, Including: Set Design, Properties Artisan, Costuming, Theater Design, and Performance.

Gallery and Museum Exhibits-Installation, Curation, Maintenance of exhibits.

Teaching Experience

North Carolina State University, Art Studies Program~ Raleigh, NC

Lecturing Professor, *Art and Technology, Sculpture with Diverse Materials, Puppetry*, 2012-Present

North Carolina Governor's School East ~ Raleigh, NC

Arts Instructor, *Puppetry, Drawing, Painting, Performance*, 2014-Present

Duke University, Department of Theater Studies ~ Durham, NC

Visiting Lecturing Fellow, *Puppet Laboratory*, 2009

Elon University, Department of Fine Arts ~ Elon, NC

Visiting Lecturer, *Figurative Sculpture*, 2009

University of North Carolina, Department of Art ~ Chapel Hill, NC

Visiting Lecturer, *Life Sculpture*, 2007.

Visiting Lecturer, *Basic Drawing, Mixed Media Sculpture*, 2002-2003

Arts Incubator, Central Carolina Community College ~ Siler City, NC

Instructor, *Three Dimensional Design, Ceramic Sculpture*, 2004

Duke University~ Durham, NC

Studio Arts Teacher, Extension Program, *The Art of the Puppet, Investigation and the Private*, 2000

University of Minnesota, Department of Art ~ Minneapolis, MN

Three Dimensional Design, Mold-making/casting, Performance Art, Metal Sculpture, 1994-1996

Plaster and Clay, Three-Dimensional Design, Foundry, Metal Sculpture, Performance Art, 1992-1993

Visiting Artist Positions

North Carolina State University, University Theater ~ Raleigh, NC

Visiting Artist Consultant, led workshops in puppetry fabrication and performance, 2012

University of North Carolina, Department of Art ~ Chapel Hill, NC

Visiting Artist, senior seminar lecturer, *Alternatives in the visual arts field*, 1999-2007

Visiting Artist, MFA candidate critique panels, 1999-2002

Yale School of Drama. Yale University ~ New Haven, CT

Visiting Artist lecturer, lecture and studio workshop: *The Art of the Puppet*, 2000

Clark University ~ Worcester, Massachusetts.

Visiting Artist lecture, 1996

Duke University ~ Durham, NC

Visiting Artist, Grand Rounds Lecture. *Expressive art therapies*, 2000

College of Art and Design~ Saint Paul, MN
Visiting Artist lecture, 1995

Arts Experience

Lincoln Center Theater ~ New York, NY
Technical Assistant, Puppet Fabricator, 2014, *The Rite of Spring* Object Performance
Jones Auditorium ~ Raleigh, NC
Director, 2014, *Hold Fast to Dreams* Object Performance
Deep Dish Theater Company~ Chapel Hill, NC
Properties Artisan, 2014 and 2013, *A Kid like Jake, Life is a Dream, Cripple of Inaashman*
North Carolina State University Theater ~ Raleigh, NC
Puppetry Consultant and Fabricator, 2012 and 2014, *Around the World in 80 Days, Alice in Wonderland*
Archipelago Theater Company at Manbites Dog Theater ~ Durham, NC
Scenic Designer, 2011, *Stealing Home, Architecture of Intimacy*
University of North Carolina, Performance Studies Department ~ Chapel Hill, NC
Costume Designer, 2011, *You Are Dead, You Are Here*, Puppetry Designer and Costume Designer, 2010, *Virtual Performance Factory*, Costume Designer, 2010, *Vertigo*
ArtsCenter Stage ~ Carrboro, NC
Scenic Designer and Puppetry Designer, 2010, *Eurydice*
Duke University Theater Studies ~ Durham, NC
Puppetry Co-Designer with Basil Twist/Puppetry Fabricator/Puppeteer, 2009, *Exit the King*
Theater of Performing Objects at Manbites Dog Theater ~ Durham, NC
Co-Director/Writer/Puppetry Designer and Fabricator/Puppeteer, 2009, *The Hungry Ghost*
Chairperson, Carrboro Arts Commission ~ Carrboro, NC, 2000-2007
Weisman Art Museum ~ Minneapolis, MN
Preparator/Installation Crew Member, 1993-1996
Deep Dish Theater Company ~ Chapel Hill, NC
Costume Designer, 2002, *Arms and the Man*
Film in the Cities ~ Minneapolis, MN
Assistant Gallery Director, 1992
University of North Carolina Film Committee, Carolina Student Union ~ Chapel Hill, NC
Member, 1982 and Chairperson, 1983-1985

Other Experience

Living Classrooms of the Capital Region~ Washington, DC, Grant Writer/ Development Officer, 2011-2014
Learning Outside~ Chapel Hill, NC, Program Developer and Outdoor Arts Educator, 2008-2011
Community Independent School ~ Pittsboro, NC, Arts Resource Specialist and Art Instructor, 2001-2008
Whitaker School ~ Butner, NC, Art Therapist, 1999-2007
Carrboro Arts Center ~ Carrboro, NC, Studio Arts Teacher, *The Art of the Puppet, Installation Art*, 2000
Bowling Green School, John Umstead Hospital ~ Butner, NC, Studio Arts Teacher, *Painting, Mixed Media Sculpture, Pottery, Black and White Photography*, 1996-1999

Honors

2013, 2015 Selected for Eugene O'Neil National Puppetry Conference Residency, Waterford, Ct
2012 Process Series Visiting Artist, UNC Department of Communication Studies, Chapel Hill, NC
2011 The Jim Henson Foundation Grant Recipient
2009 Emerging Artists Grant, Durham Arts Council, Durham, NC
2002 Emerging Artists Grant, Durham Arts Council, Durham, NC
1999 Emerging Artists Grant, Durham Arts Council, Durham, NC
1996 Projects Grant, Rivers Merging and Asian Am. Renaissance, Minneapolis, MN
1995 Commission from the College of Liberal Arts, U of M., Minneapolis, MN
Zelda B Fliegel Memorial Scholarship, Department of Art, U. of MN
1992-1995 Dayton-Hudson Fellowship, Department of Art, U. of MN

Selected Exhibits

- 2014 Rite of Spring, Puppeteer and Puppetry Designer, Lincoln Center, New York, NY
- 2014 Buoyancy, Constructed Actor Performance, Jones Auditorium, Meredith University, Raleigh, NC
- 2013 Rite of Spring, Puppeteer, Memorial Hall, University of North Carolina
- 2013 *Tiny: Attention Exploded*, Group Exhibit, Carrack Modern Museum, Durham, NC
- 2012 Harvesting Pomegranate Dreams, director, puppeteer, puppet fabricator, Historic Playmakers Theater, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2012 Opening shadow sequence for *When Walt Whitman Was A Little Girl*, film directed by Jim Havercamp
- 2009 Exit the King, Co-Designer with Basil Twist, puppeteer, puppet fabricator, Schaeffer Theater, Duke University, Durham, NC
- The Hungry Ghost, Man Bites Dog Theater, Durham, N.C. and Artscenter Stage, Carrboro, NC
- 2007 *Nocturnal Matinee*, Era Gallery, Wilmington, NC
- The Garden Within*, interactive mixed media installation, Artspllosure, Raleigh, NC
- 2005 *Musical Shadows*, shadow performance. Ringside Theater, Durham, NC
- Cultivating The Empty Garden*, interactive installation, The Arts Center, Carrboro, NC
- 2004 *Wood, Stone, Fire, and Bone*, puppet pageant, Paper Hand Puppet Intervention
- Performed at Forest Theater, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Not Me Objects*, marionette installation. Red Hat Galleries, Raleigh, NC
- The Loss of Leopard Pudding*, mixed media performance and installation, Theater of Performing Objects. Ringside Theater, Durham, NC
- Virga*, mixed media installation. Illinois Central College, East Peoria, IL
- Is It OK For Me to Be Here, fables from the contemporary south*, interactive mixed media installation. Carrboro, NC
- 2003 *Uprising: the Creation of the World in Four Parts*, puppet pageant, Paper Hand Puppet Intervention. Wide Awake Festival, Forest Theater, Chapel Hill, NC
- **The Wild Geese*, Exploris, Raleigh, NC
- 2002 *Loom*, mixed media installation, *The Self Is A Circle*. Chatham Label Mill. Pittsboro, NC
- Is It OK For Me To Be Here, (fables from the contemporary south)*, interactive mixed media installation. Commission from Carrboro Century Center.
- Body Memory*, interactive mixed media installation, Durham Arts Center, Durham, NC
- 2001 *Miner's Echo*, gesturing performance. Loom, Chatham Label Mill, Pittsboro, NC
- Icarus, marionette installation, Loom, Chatham Label Mill, Pittsboro, NC
- 2000 *In my Condition*, The Attic Gallery, Vicksburg, MS
- 2000 *The Invisible Hand Export Circus*, gesturing performance. Performed for the Wide Awake Festival, Forest Theater, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- The Maiden, The Sailor and The Student* by Federico Garcia Lorca, gesturing performance
- Performed at the Yale Cabaret, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- In Our Hands And Voice*, performance, The New Museum of Contemporary Art, NY
- Body Memory*, gesturing performance. Performed at Forest Theater, Chapel Hill, NC
- 1999 *Secretly*, gesturing performance, Bibliotheque Americain/L'Ecole de Paul Valery, Montpellier, France
- Give Me A Name*, gesturing performance. Artoretum Pepiniere D'Artistes, Montpellier, France
- The Story of A Face and Tremble*, national juried puppet exhibit, *Puppet Extravaganza*, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA
- 1999 *Illusions of A Sleepwalker's Shadow*, interactive mixed media installation, John and June Alcott Gallery, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 1997 *What Is She In This Night Becoming*, group show, Hillsborough, N C
- A Fragmented Look*, window installation project, Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, NC
- Full of Body*, window installation project, Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, NC
- 1996 *Dressing*, group show, Clark University gallery, Worcester, MA
- Our Normal Desires*, Master of Fine Arts Exhibit, interactive mixed media installation, Nash Gallery, University of Minnesota, MN
- 1995 *Children's Art Gallery*, collaborative interactive installation, interpreting museum collection to children, Walker Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN

- When I Was Eighty*, collaborative interactive mixed media installation, M.A.E.P. Gallery, Minneapolis Art Institute, Minneapolis, MN
I Wish I Could Hear The Mississippi, collaborative outdoor sound scape installation, University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts Minneapolis, MN
Truth Of Lives, wall installation, Phipps Center For The Arts, Hudson, WI
From This Now To Another Now, U of Mn. Gallery, Morris, MN
Containment of Shame, interactive installation, Loft Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
1994 *My Mother's Voice*, mixed media installation, Famine Chorus Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
1993 *Women and Madness*, National juried art show, Tate Gallery, Tucson, AZ
1992 *What Happens When You Become An Authority*, mixed media installation, Rite-Aid Pharmacy, Chapel Hill, NC
1991 *Death of The Hero*, interactive installation, Glass Gallery, University of North Carolina
From Brain To Body Space, interactive installation, Sculpture Gallery, Chapel Hill, NC
Path of Resistance, interactive installation, Glass Gallery, University of North Carolina
Unprotection, interactive installation, Sculpture Gallery, Chapel Hill, NC

Reviews/Articles/Interviews

- Byron Woods, "The Year in the Triangle Theater 2012," *Tori Ralston, Puppets, Alice In Wonderland*, NCSU.
Byron Woods, "The Year in Triangle Theater," *Tori Ralston best scenic design of the year...*, *Independent Weekly*, December 22, 2010. Durham, NC
Frank Stasio, "The State of Things," live interview on January 14, 09. *American Tobacco District*, Durham, NC
Byron Woods, "Mystification and Elucidation," *Independent Weekly*, January 22, 09. Durham, NC
Rebekah Cowell, "Puppet Masters of The Triangle," *The Durham News*, January 17-18, 09. Durham, NC
Zach Smith, "You Can't Take It With You," *Independent Weekly*, January 7, 09. Durham, NC
Deborah Meyer, "Pulling the Strings of her Audience's..." *The Chapel Hill News*, December 3, 2008. Chapel Hill, NC
Caitlin Cleary, "Tipping a Red Hat to the World of Art," *The News and Observer*, April 11, 2004. Raleigh, NC
Ristin Cooks, "Puppet Masters," *The Independent*, August 8-14, 2001. Durham, NC
Susan Broili, "Tobacco Sticks Inspire..." *The Herald Sun*, March 7, 2001. Chapel Hill, NC
Max Halperen, "Year's Top Ten Best In Visual Arts," *The News and Observer*, December 27, 2000. Raleigh, NC
Max Halperen, "Exhibit Taps Deep..." *The News and Observer*, March 10, 2000. Raleigh, NC
Michelle Richards, "Outside In," *The Spectator*, September 10, 1998. Raleigh, NC
R. J. Beatty, "Artist Creates Worlds of Puppet Strings," *The News of Orange*, January 20, 1999. Hillsborough, NC
Stacy Peterson, "All Strung Out," *The Times News*, January 3, 1999. Burlington, NC
Michelle Natale, "Sleepwalker's Shadow," *Spectator*, September 10, 1998. Raleigh, NC
Lawrence McGuire, "Art For Psyche's..." *The Independent*, May 21, 1997. Raleigh, NC
Doris Birmingham, "Dressing," *Art New England*, February/March 1997. Boston, MA
Leon Nigrosh, "Out of The Closet..." *The Worcester Phoenix*, October 11, 1996. Worcester, MA
Christina Pappas, "Dressing..." *Worcester Magazine*, October 9, 1996. Worcester, MA
Susan Kauffman, "Drug Store Window..." *The News and Observer*, April 2, 1992. Raleigh, NC
Carol Davis, "Art Student Challenges..." *The Daily Tar Heel*, March 1992. Chapel Hill, NC

Commissions

- 2007 Commission from *Artsposure*, Raleigh, NC
2001 Commission from the Carrboro Century Center, Carrboro, NC
1995 Commission from the College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota

References

- Dr. Rodney Washka, Director Art Studies Program-Interdisciplinary Arts Dept., North Carolina State University.
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