

The Regional Arts Commission's (RAC) Artist Fellowship

RAC serves to foster and invest in the careers of St. Louis artists of all disciplines by providing funds to allow for more time and space to study, reflect, experiment, explore, practice, and create. The goal is to advance the individual artist's creative journey. This annual Artist Fellowship recognizes artistic excellence and honors the work of seasoned artists, advances the work of mid-career artists, and nurtures the work of developing artists.

Ten St. Louis artists working in varied disciplines are chosen by discipline readers and a Citizen Review Panel of professionals, peers, and RAC Commissioners each year. These fellowships are investments in the careers of St. Louis artists as well as in the cultural vitality of the region. Artists make substantial contributions to our community's vibrancy by boosting creative problem-solving, pushing boundaries, provoking thought, and animating our neighborhoods and cultural institutions. These Artist Fellowships are designed to call attention to the depth and quality of the art being created in St. Louis and to amplify the work of ten outstanding St. Louis

Why I Make Art

Recognizing that words fail to define the breadth of the human experience, I am compelled to give form to the invisible and notes to that which cannot be heard. I am interested in the individual's experience cast in the context of the universal. It is my intention to be on the frontier of thought, to research, to listen intently, to look deeply, to think, to be, to discover intuitive knowledge, to make a statement about that which matters, to be a vocal agent for discovery, meaning and purpose, and to pursue wisdom. Art forms within a linear narrative mimic life's complexity seeing only the tops of things - never the root. Performance abstractions manifest a critical dialogue on the nature of being human. Deriving permission from the early Dadaist and beyond, performance structures assume the audience capable of creating meaning for themselves when presented with slivers of insight selected to evoke, provoke and reveal.

The most potent moment is when the juxtaposition of disparate elements falls together, the metaphor is understood, and the vision expands exponentially. These are moments of restrained excitement as you attempt to channel the pursuit of an idea. At these moments no obstacles exist, only possibilities

Satori

Artistic Process

Questions, Insights, and Time: My work is the result of seeking to know and understand. It comes after decades of following hunches and what if's. The work innovates and invents, asks questions, suggest possibilities and discovers the unknown, unseen and unheard in an effort to tell the story - the one you're afraid will be left untold. This work is strong and brave, complex and simple, exhausting and uplifting, soars, leaps and transcends - it is powerful and yet fragile. The pursuit is exhausting and exhilarating. Each piece begins with an insight - a revelation - a sudden enlightenment and the journey begins. Time is the biggest tool - time to let the concept attract and gather connections to other ideas. Then images emerge, movements become visible, and I come to understand how they connect to the concept. I mentally expose physical space along with sounds, words, props. I collect samples of the work, which is content drawn from simple things that penetrate into my consciousness. It might be a word or a phrase, a profound crisis in my life or the lives of others that teaches me - that stops me and makes me listen. This is the ability, developed over decades, to understand the power of two seemingly disparate things, that they have meaning beyond their simple purpose. We communicate on levels beyond the spoken word or dramatic gesture. What this work does is gather clues - colors, shapes, light, shadow, a news report, a secret someone shared, the shape of an object, silhouettes, history and myth, the physicality of things, words, virtually everything we do - and artfully juxtaposition these as props so as to communicate beyond words a meaning that is both visual and felt, conversing with audience in ways that unlock intuitive knowledge. Illustrations, Storyboards, and Models: Eventually (and this process cannot be rushed; it can take 2 hours or 2 years or more), at some point, the piece is formed in my eye and mind. I begin making illustrations on my computer to represent the sculptural stage space, performers, scale and movements. I create storyboards to help share the vision with others. For large projects, I construct scale models used in making moving videos to illustrate the lighting and shadow explorations.

Excellence is accomplished through a process of considering and cleaning each moment to assure that the execution supports the vision. Elements as disparate as video projections and mapping, soundscape innovations, movement and the execution of transitions, stage design as sculpture to open the limits of the presidium as well as the connectivity between performers so that the intent is clear - strong or weak, violent or supporting. Each psychological, emotional relationship is considered to take the work beyond the personal expression to the universal. A recognition that our lives are played out with a global backdrop invites each audience member to consider and reconsider their place in relation to the "us."