

Ruth A. Block, MA, MFA

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INSTRUCTOR, TEACHING ARTIST, FACILITATOR, PROJECT DIRECTOR (www.ruthblock.com)

From her first professional teaching position of Life Drawing at the Free University at Michigan State University in 1969, Ruth Block optimizes decades of training and experience as a teaching artists to diverse populations in a variety of venues. She also brings experience from fields of mental health, entrepreneurship (www.aivideo.com), music performance, and parenting into the equation for students with differing quests for undergraduate/graduate college degrees, career advancement and success as artists, as well as developing personal fulfillment for young and old. Ruth Block's curriculum development and trademark spirited teaching style provide what is most needed in the moment. She teaches with a full arsenal of knowledge and techniques that both challenge and encourage each student/artist to actualizing their unique potential toward success.

EDUCATION

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

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Harvey Bailey Campus Community Award, The Art Institute of California-San Francisco, 2012
 - 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
- (Refer to [Articles and Reviews](#) for additional recognition & documentation)

ART INSTRUCTOR: 1969 — Present

6/2013- Retired - Berkeley City College, Berkeley, CA, Part-Time/Adjunct Faculty, Art Department:
Figure Drawing - Anatomy, Figure Drawing & Composition, Painting: Beginning, Continuing/Intermediate & Advanced/Special Projects

2012-2018 — Women's Cancer Resource Center, Oakland, CA, Facilitator/Teacher for once a month workshops including Creating Mandalas and other Healing Art, Color Theory, Creative Process & Mixed-Media, Life Drawing, Self-Portraits, and Watercolor Techniques Workshops. Creating the space and facilitating art expression as a physical, emotional and/or spiritual healing tool: www.wcrc.org

4/2006-12/2012 — Art Institute of California-San Francisco, CA, Full-time Faculty & Lead Drawing Instructor for Media Arts & Animation and Foundations Departments: Advanced Expressive Drawing Studio I & II (MFA level), Drawing & Anatomy, Animal Anatomy, Color Theory, Life Drawing & Gesture, Drawing Fundamentals/Observational, Advanced Life Drawing, Painting, Portfolio Committee & Review, Curriculum/Program Development, Stephen Cleary Awards Panel, Faculty Development Facilitator (**Award**)

1/03-4/06 — Art Institute of California-San Francisco, CA, Part-time Faculty: Advanced Life Drawing, Anatomy, Color Theory, Life Drawing & Gesture, Drawing Fundamentals/ Observational, Painting; Painting Club Mentor; Psychology (temporary quarter substitute)

1/14- 8/15 & 4/99 – 5/03 Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA, Classes and workshops in drawing, painting - including A to Z of Acrylic Painting, Anatomy for Artists, Figure Drawing & Painting, Mixed-media, Landscape, Self-portraits, Visualization Techniques, and Watercolor, for adults & teens, all levels.
www.therac.org

9/99-3/06 & 2/89-8/93 — Studio One Art Center, Oakland, CA, Coordinator & Chair Drawing & Painting Department: Drawing Fundamentals, Figure Drawing and Painting, Watercolor - classes and workshops, beginning through advanced students, all levels

10/99-6/01 — West Contra Costa Adult Education, Richmond, CA
Acrylic Techniques, Basic Drawing & Composition, Landscape Drawing & Painting, and Watercolor

6/00-1/01 — Civic Arts, Walnut Creek, CA
Painting the Figure in Watercolor classes and workshops

5/00-8/00 — ASUC Art Studio, UC Berkeley Auxiliary, Berkeley, CA
Watercolor classes

9/97-6/98 — Visual Arts Center, Roswell, GA (Initiated all figure/live-model classes)
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, Initiated and Headed Program of Art Classes for Adults: Figure Painting, all media; monitored Open Life Drawing Sessions

1/94-5/95 — New Mexico Art League, Albuquerque, NM, Education Chair: Basic Drawing, Color and Composition, Figure Painting in all media, Life Drawing, and all levels of Watercolor; After-School Program for the Arts

11/93-1/95 — Art Masters Academy and The Art School, Albuquerque, NM
Drawing Anatomy, Introduction and Advanced Painting Techniques in 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 & Painting, Life Drawing, and Studio Techniques and Critiques

PROJECT DIRECTOR/CHAIR/PROJECT MANAGER

8/99-9/99 — City of Richmond Multi-Cultural Millennium Festival, Richmond, CA,
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*. Included 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, Albuquerque, NM, 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, Albuquerque, NM, Educational Chair: Designed, evaluated, scheduled and taught classes. Managed student exhibitions. Represented department at Board meetings. Wrote newsletter articles and served as public relations liaison and Chief Curator for Special Exhibitions. Co-Coordinated and taught in after-school arts program

4/92-10/92 — Coordinator/Director and Chief Curator of *The Fire Art Project, Oakland, CA
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. ***Award** Nominee for Oakland Business Arts

9/85-9/89 — Berkeley Adult School, Berkeley, CA, Art Department Chair: Supervised instructors, scheduled classes, set fees, and managed student shows and public relations events

EXHIBITING ARTIST: 1977- Present

(Refer [Exhibition Listing](#) for details, including selected group and juried exhibitions)

Featured artist in 34+ solo exhibitions, both domestically and abroad. Gallery representation in four states, including as featured artist

PERFORMANCE ARTIST/CONCEPTUAL ART PRODUCTION: 1965-Present

1988- 2023 — Artist's InterActive Video Productions, Owner/Producer of video production company. Directed, produced, and performed as talent/instructor in 8 instructional video workshops used as a full college-level Classic Life Drawing course, two instructional video workshops in Painting the Figure in Watercolor, and choreographed two programs of Classical Model Poses. (DVD and downloadable formatted) * **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

Ongoing: Singer/Songwriter, solo and in groups. Currently: Contra Costa Choral
www.contracostachorale

ADDITIONAL ART AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES

- Art Institute of Chicago (Drawing and Sculpture)
- Belles Artes, Mexico (Photography)
- Bronze Casting Apprenticeship with Jerry Goss, Camel Barnes, Benicia, CA
- Conscious Embodiment and Conscious Leadership Training Classes and Retreats with Wendy Palmer and/or Associates, CA (Certification 2012)
- Contra Costa Chorale Fundraising Auction Donations and Organizational Assistance
- Drug Education and Crisis Intervention Training, East Lansing, MI
- Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA (Printmaking Workshops)
- Laney and Merritt Colleges, Oakland, CA (Drawing Anatomy, Portraiture, Sculpture)
- National Music Camp, Interlochen, MI (Painting, Sculpture, Dance and Vocal Arts)
- Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA (Ceramics and Sculpture)
- Studio One Art Center, Oakland, CA (Drawing, Painting and Sculpture)
- Yoga ~ (Daily Practice and ongoing training from various instructors for over 40 years)
- Qigong ~ Daily Practice and ongoing training from various instructors since 2014