

Artist Statement

In my artwork I'm interested in how our personal emotions and internal frictions shape and transform with time. I am also interested in exploring how deeply the objects, materials, and places within our lives inform our personal senses of comfort or discomfort. My art is an examination of our place within the environments we inhabit us as seen through a lens of sarcasm and a self-awareness of the ironic silliness of modern suburban life.

My art serves as a way of reassuring myself that I'm able to take claim of the world and materials around me to create a space that can be alright, stable, and comfortable. I use my art and the process of creating to reflect on our unique place in the world and how we move through these spaces we inhabit. I want to acknowledge and take claim of the objects and places in my life so I can better understand my identity and place within the spaces I exist. Creating art serves as a process that allows me to gain a clearer understanding of what I value and care about within in the spaces in my life.

With my work, I'm searching for my own understanding of what I need for myself to feel secure and warm. My art serves as an attempt to work through these thoughts and feelings in a way I hope is relatable to others while also emphasizing fun, experimentation, and personal fulfillment. My work uses common domestic materials that are easily for other to associate without feeling too specific to a certain time or place. I use fabric, embroidery, paper, and collage elements to represent and honor the craft and domestic making processes that are not historically associated with fine art. While using these elements, I want to be aware of my place within art so I can share my own perspective while also being conscious and educated of the traditions and history that are associated with the materials and processes in my work. I aim to bring these materials together in unexpected combinations that can reflect my feelings and thoughts, but still be approachable, enjoyable, and engaging with everyone who views my work.

Max Raign

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Resume and CV

Max-Raign.com
maxraignart@gmail.com

Education

2021 to Present *MFA Candidate*; University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.

2016 to 2020 *BFA*; University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.

2020 Undergraduate Academic Certificate in Technical Communication

Professional Experience

2021 to Present Teaching Assistant in the Foundations Department at the University of North Texas, Denton, TX.

- Fall 2021 TA for (2) Sections of 1800: Narrative and Representation
- Spring 2022 TA for (2) Sections of 1700: Space
- Fall 2022 TA for (1) Section of 1600: Perspective and Translation
- Spring 2023 TA for (1) Section of 1900: Systems

As a TA I lead around 20-40 students per semester as the main instructor and grader. I work alongside students to introduce topics in studio art and give them opportunities to experiment with different mediums and art practices. Classroom instruction happens through a combination of lectures, classroom discussions, group critiques, individual instruction, and demonstrations. In the classroom I help to prepare students for working as an artist and expand their ways of thinking critically about art.

2022 to Present Graduate Student Assistant in the Foundations Department at the University of North Texas, Denton, TX.

As a Foundations GSA I work alongside Department Technicians to support the teaching staff, ensure classrooms stay organized and well supplied, and help facilitate events happening within Foundations.

Group Exhibitions

- 2023 - *Materials Hard and Soft*; Greater Denton Arts Council, Denton, Texas.
- *I Forgot to Read the Recipe Before I Started Cooking*; University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.
- 2022 - *Refuge: 24th Annual Membership Exhibition*; MAC Gallery, Dallas, Texas.
- *Right Where I Was... A UNT MFA Exhibition*; UNT Colab, Denton, Texas.
- *Art Friends*; Anna Street Studios, Denton, Texas.
- *Gratitude Exhibition*; Create Arlington, Arlington, Texas.
- 2020 - *Hot and Sweaty 2020 Virtual Exhibition*; 500X Gallery, Dallas, Texas.
- *Voertman's 2020 Group Exhibition*; Voertman's College Store, Denton, Tx.
- 2019 - *Ratpack*; Art Haus: Denton, Denton, Texas.
- *Intermediate Drawing and Painting Exhibition*; University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.
- *59th Annual Voertman's Competition*; Voertman's College Store, Denton, Texas.
- *Full Circle*; University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.

Professional Memberships

- Member of the MAC Gallery in Dallas, TX since 2022
- Member of the Greater Denton Arts Council since 2023

Honors and Awards

- 2019 - *59th Annual Voertman's Competition*; Top Ten in Show, Voertman's College Store, Denton, Texas.

Academic Scholarships and Grants

- 2022 to 2023**
- *The Phil Samson Studio Arts Scholarship (\$1,200)*; University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.
 - *The Rob Erdle Watercolor Painting Scholarship for Graduates (\$620)*; University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.
 - *The UNT Foundation Fund for the College of Visual Arts and Design Endowed Scholarships (\$185)*; University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.
 - *Tuition Benefit Program (\$2,870)*; University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.
- 2021 to 2022**
- *The Voertman-Ardion Fellowship (\$2,850)*; University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.
 - *The Thomas Norby Memorial Scholarship (\$400)*; University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.
 - *Tuition Benefit Program (\$1,675)*; University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.

References

- Binod Shrestha - Foundations Programs Director and Associate Professor; University of North Texas, TX. 940-360-805 Binod.Shrestha@unt.edu
- Amie Adelman - Professor of Studio Art; University of North Texas, TX. 940-891-6742 Amie.Adelman@unt.edu
- Terry Davis - Foundations Visual Arts Technician; University of North Texas, TX. 940-565-4019 Terry.Davis3@unt.edu