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## **RAFAEL SERRANO**

b 1954 Havana, Cuba. Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

### **VITA**

#### **Education**

Otis College of Art and Design, Masters of Fine Arts, Los Angeles, 1982

California State University Long Beach, Bachelors of Fine Arts, Long Beach, 1980

#### **Solo Exhibitions**

2016 Lake Of Secrets And Other Living Things, Fab Gallery, Venice Beach

2016 Lagoon Of Unrepentant Memories Plus Other Living Things, Neutra Institute, Los Angeles

2014 Space Gallery, Pomona

2014 Downtown Gallery, Los Angeles

2013 York K Studio, Los Angeles

2011 Orange Door Gallery, Los Angeles

1998 Bigoudi International, Los Angeles

1997 Gallery Isabelle, Los Angeles

1995 Gallery Andy Jillien, Zurich

1991 Marquardt Gallery, Venice Beach

1990 Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles

1989 Anthropological Poetic Fantasies, B1 Gallery, Santa Monica

#### **Group Exhibitions**

2014 Art Share Los Angeles, Los Angeles

2012 Ground Space Projects, Los Angeles

2009 Attack of the Cyclops, Daydream Republic, Los Angeles

2009 Last Picture Show '09, DRKRM Gallery, Los Angeles

2009 30th Year Anniversary Show, Robert Berman Gallery, Santa Monica

2008 Love Me, DRKRM Gallery, Los Angeles

2003 Absolute Biennial, Los Angeles

1999 Group Show, Downtown Gallery, Los Angeles

1994 Kunst Aus Den USA, Galerie M., Berlin

1993 The Art Speaks for Itself VIII, DGA Building, Los Angeles

1991 Marquardt Gallery, Venice Beach

1990 Marquardt Gallery, Venice Beach

1989 Frailty of Power, Cypress College, Cypress, CA

1988 Viewpoints, The Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego

1987 Poetic Injury, Alternative Museum, New York City

1987 Myth Ritual, San Francisco Camerawork Gallery, San Francisco

1987 Avant Garde in the Eighties, LACMA, Los Angeles

1986 Members Juried Show, LACPS Gallery, Los Angeles



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1986 Artist for the Homeless, Eilat Gordon Gallery, Los Angeles  
1986 Three Person Show, BC Space Gallery, Los Angeles  
1986 All California Biennial, Riverside Art Museum, Riverside, CA  
1985 Exaggerations LACPS Gallery, Los Angeles  
1985 Outspeak, LACPS Gallery, Los Angeles  
1985 Alumni Group Show, Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles  
1981 Fix-it-Up, LACE Gallery, Los Angeles

### **Publications**

Laden, Tanja M.: "Movies and Memes Meet in Abstract-Neosurrealist Paintings | City of the Seekers", December 16, 2016  
Tarley, Phil: "The Critical Eye", Fabrik Magazine, September 8, 2016  
Solis, Nathan: "The Art of The Comeback: Highland Park artist seeks a return to the spotlight", The Eastsider, May 24, 2013  
Kandel, Susan: Arts Magazine, May 2011  
Frank, Peter: "Art Pick of the Week", LA Weekly, April 26 - May 2, 1991  
Snow, Shauna: "Rafael Serrano at Play in the Fields of Painting, Photography", Los Angeles Times, February 17, 1991  
Baron, Todd: "A Different Aesthetic", ArtScene, 1991  
Curtis, Cathy: "ART REVIEW : Serrano's Photographs Lack Punch : Exhibit: Though a reproduction of one of his works was removed from the poster advertising, it's hard to see what the phallic fuss is about", Los Angeles Times, November 11, 1989  
Vanderknyff, Rick: "Phallic Photo Controversy Boosts Attendance in Cypress : Art: Rafael Serrano called it "censorship" when a photograph of his was pulled from a flyer, but when word got around, more people than usual dropped in at Cypress College Fine Arts Gallery to have a look", Los Angeles Times, November 4, 1989  
Donohue, Marlina: "Santa Monica", Los Angeles Times, July 28, 1989  
Rugoff, Ralph: "The Wry Stuff", L.A. Style Magazine, 1989  
Boettger, Suzanne: "Poetic Injury", Alternative Museum Exhibition Catalog, 1987  
Blake, Robert: "Myth/Ritual", San Francisco Camerawork Quarterly, 1987  
Fox, Howard: "Avant Garde in the Eighties", LACMA Exhibition Catalog, 1987  
Nicholson, Chuck: "Sexual Icons Mythical Realities", Artweek, 1986

### **Work Experience as an artist:**

2005 Anthropological Poetry  
2004 Production Designer - "Pumpkin Carver" Design for a horror film  
2000 Conga Room - Interior Paintings and murals  
1986 - 1987 Instructor - Norwalk High School  
1986 Designed Photographic Projections for Jackson Brown  
1985 Scenic Painter - Freelance Scenic Painter  
1984 - 1986 Instructor - Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising  
1984 Sculptor/Designer - Dexter Company



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## **ARTIST STATEMENT**

I consider myself a neo-surrealist, shaped by influences such as Man Ray, Max Ernst, Dada and Dali. Most of my work is the product of my subconscious. I'm interested in the soul of humanity and the inner workings of the mind enhanced by a poetic vision. Since I am both a painter and photographer, I like to combine both mediums. I start by making a small painting that I collage over. Then I photograph the work, and put it into Photoshop and manipulate the palette, the contrast, and I pick out the colors I want to play with. I blow these images up to 20 x 24 inches, then repaint or collage over the print; sometimes I photograph them, yet again. My final pieces often move through six generations of paint collage and photography.

### **Instagram**

[@rafael\\_serrano\\_artist](#)