

Artist Name

Mimi Rankin Webb

Artist Statement

Awareness, Advocacy, Activism: ART.

Always awakening awareness and artistically articulating advocacy and activism through acts of artistic expression. Mine is family living with various aspects of special needs which directly influences my every act of self-expression.

I identify strongly with the life and arts of the sideshow and my work reflects this as well. I have always been the proverbial “Red headed stepchild in the family full of freaks” even with- in my theater family dynamic that nurtured me from an early age. There, I discovered that death truly is my art.

I specialize in performance art and all aspects of its creation including costume design, set design, prop creation and theatrical writing, currently using Gas Light Players Haunted Attraction, Gentleman Death’s Shocktale Show, as a venue for my creations.

As a Mother to 16yr old triplets living with special needs & a 27 year old Sailor, I also take great delight in sharing my family adventures, personal experiences, anecdotes and observations with the others through my award winning writings in my blog and online community Macaroni Kid Shreveport-Bossier Moms in the Know.

Resume

I am a professional artist, working within the community theater and haunt industry which has allowed me to express myself creatively using a wide range of techniques whether it be scripting for the stage, costuming haunt-icon characters created especially for Gas Light Players annual Shocktale Show, or even creating props and scenery out of up-cycled materials.

I have been an active part of the local community theater Gas Light Players since 1989, performing in various aspects and roles within the theater and currently serving as Artistic Director and President of the Board as well as Writer, Director and Co-Designer of the theater's signature haunted attraction.

Festival performance art is also one of my favorite venues. I have performed with Four Winds Renaissance Festival as well as served as its Casting Director from spring of 1997-2000, moving on to performances with Scarborough Faire and later as a paid performer with Texas Renaissance Festival Performance Company from 2000-2005.

More recently, I could be found at the State Fair of Louisiana as "The Artist" who creates Gentleman Death's Shocktale Show, performing as one of 2 icon characters out in front of Gas Light Players Box Office during the Fair. Behind the scenes, I served as this show's Director, script-writer, co-designer, property & costumer as well as provided original sound recordings used through-out the show.

My family and I recently dove head first into the world of creative place-making endeavors with the experimental formation of "Terra-plex" which was a partnership between Gas Light Players and local

farmers which brought the arts to an area that was previously void of any. I had the privilege of being able to work not only with people with developmental disabilities but also rural at-risk troubled youth who shared our experiences in collaboration with bringing this project to life for 2 years.

I have been involved within the Haunt Industry since 1989, beginning as a cast member with Gas Light Player's Terror Show. Also, I have worked nationally with the Chateau du Macabre and The Dungeon haunted attractions in Texas.

As of 2007, I chose to focus on Gas Light Players unique terror show, immersing myself into all aspects of it where I currently script, direct and create costumes, props, custom sound and scenery each year.

Death truly has become my art as I enjoy not only writing in the unique style of the Dr. Blood shows culturally indicative to Gas Light Players in Shreveport, but also creating the various unique characters and visual art to display within the haunted attraction itself.

Photographing my scene designs and the creation of bone sculpture pieces has also become a passion of mine as I document each year of the show both in design as well as capturing the characters created for the show while documenting costuming, properties & more.

From 2007-2011, I also have had the pleasure of writing anecdotes of my children's antics as well as exploring their eventual autism spectrum diagnosis and journeys and shared Mommie advice for RedRiverMomsLikeMe.com website and advice forum.

As Mother to 16 year old triplets and a 27yr old Sailor, I have had several of my pieces published locally in the sister magazine Red River

Moms, LaParenting and also printed in our local as well as national Gannett paper, The Shreveport Times.

My work there has transformed into the current “Shreveport-Bossier Moms in the Know” Facebook group where I currently house my award winning blog, voted 2017 Best Blogger in Shreveport/Bossier and its sister website Macaroni Kid Shreveport-Bossier Moms In the Know.

My work with Gas Light Players Gentleman Death’s Shocktale Show is featured in the new book by Bonnye Stuart, “Louisiana Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities and Other Offbeat Stuff” which made its debut in November, 2012.

I have had the honor of working with Drew Edward Hunter in the Artspace exhibition, “Doctor Blood’s Library Macabre: A Vision of Literary Fright” with my contribution to the installation immersing the patron in the world of the character “Claudia” from the Anne Rice novel “Interview With the Vampire” and the “Phantom of the Opera” installation collaboration.

My later projects involve creative place-making and bringing arts out to Taylor Town with haunted attraction consulting with the Taylortown Dark Arena Haunted House located in Elm Grove, Louisiana which has evolved into a larger multiple haunted attraction complex now known as “Terra-plex” where I enjoyed the opportunity of teaching not only special needs but also rural at risk & troubled youth my craft along with fellow area artists in collaboration in the project.

Nearly 6 years ago, I began collaborating with several other local artists to launch the [#RedRocks!](#) [#318Rocks!](#) painted rock project locally which is a community-wide initiative designed to engage residents both young

and old from the surrounding Shreveport/Bossier area in an ongoing painted rock art project that includes a photographic internet based scavenger hunt and leads participants around the community in search of these one of a kind collectible pieces of Rock-Art both created by and hidden for the community.

So far, the #RedRocks! project has managed to engage people not typically reached by Arts organizations both in the creation of the Rocks as artwork and through connecting everyone together as a community through searching for, finding and re-hiding these one of a kind Art-Rocks! Since its tiny inception, the project has grown by leaps & bounds with the formation of many rock groups across Northwest Louisiana and exceeds 10,000 participants and growing.

My project also has a workshop component where we as artists go out into the community and host rock painting gatherings and perform outreach in as many under-served areas as will allow us to host in libraries, parks and even during parade time!

Over the past few year, I've engaged various aspects of our area special needs communities, participated in rural and inner city area workshops, as well as taken this project into our area schools with various service organization groups such as honor society and other service oriented clubs for children.

During my time as a NWLA Juried Roster Artist, I have served on the Shreveport Common Management Team as Roster representative as well as currently serving as NWLA Roster Artists Chairman (for the past 7+ years) which is a role that allows me to grow the Roster itself as well as reach out to and include as many of our area artists as I can bring together to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity while

encouraging collaborative efforts and outside the box engagement among artists out in our communities.

I also work closely with the developmental disabilities community and the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council by leading their grassroots advocacy as LaCAN Leader in region 7 working towards systems change through policymaking and to better meet the needs of the community through advocating for statewide policy and systems changes.

This position has allowed me to apply my theatrical skills such as scriptwriting and directing as well as audience assessment to the art of advocacy through policymaking and systems change where I have successfully helped advocate and bring to fruition several major laws that make our community safer and more accessible to the developmental disabilities community such as TEFRA (Medicaid for children with developmental disabilities who normally wouldn't otherwise qualify) and Cameras in the Special Education Classroom laws and funding sources.

I am also very active with local parents providing parenting support and information as well as family special needs support both in person as well as online through several large social media based groups where she facilitates parenting support giving advice, sharing areawide events information, maintaining a vast areawide calendar of free and low-cost events and resources relative to parenting and families.

In the past few years, I also have learned how to navigate the pharos lighting design software in conjunction with learning to design custom light shows for the Texas Street Bridge Lighting

project for the Bakowski Bridge of Lights through the Light It UP! Project with the Shreveport Regional Arts Council and have sold several custom designs as an artist created specifically for the bridge itself which are exhibited via GlowFests over the course of the upcoming year. The donor-light show currently is available to view online and at each of the festivals taking place on the first Friday monthly along the riverfront.

I also was involved and selected as a resident artist through the Shreveport Regional Arts Council to work on the team helping teach area Title 1 and special needs students how to program and design using the pharos software for the Texas Street Bridge Light It Up project which culminated in a week long project in conjunction with Artbreak this past spring as well as the subsequent Friday night light shows that are slated to happen over the summer months with several glow-fest style festivals which take place near Riverview Park in downtown Shreveport-Bossier. I'm very proud to report how all of my phase 3 students completed the entire course and became certified in the program this past spring which is a huge success for them!

As an Artist and Advocate, I work to bring our community together through hands on engagement of the arts and foster a more inclusive relationship throughout our area by reaching out in a variety of multi-disciplinary forms that will inspire and engage those who wouldn't typically have access to the arts.

Additional Information

Honors & Awards:

2018 City of Shreveport Multi-Disciplinary

Arts Fellowship Award AIRPORT exhibit

Artist

Arts Facilitator & Lead Artist for [#318Rocks! The RedRocks!](#) Project for "Owl Night" & "Fairy House Celebration" Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park events

Critical Mass Art Shows, "InGraved: Celebrating

100 Years of Forest Park Cemetery Best Local

Blog/Blogger "[The Times Best of NWLA 2017](#)

[Awards](#)" Piece

Featured in the Artspace Exhibit "The Art of As-

Is" Blanket Commissioned Piece Nick Cave

Installation "As-Is" Exhibition & Performance

Chosen Artist for ArtSpace Installation, "[Dr. Blood's Library Macabre: a Vision of Literary Fright](#)
Autism Parent Advocate Presenter Families Helping Families Region 7
Legislative Roundtables Advocate & Policymaking Act 421 TEFRA
Medicaid Option for the state of Louisiana
Advocate & Policymaking Act 456 Cameras in the Special Education
Classroom Upon Parent request

[Winning Photo](#) in the Fall 2021 Photo Contest - Louisiana
Cemeteries from the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation

Designs accepted for the Bakowski Bridge of Lights Texas Street
Bridge Lighting Project in 2021

Resident Artist, Light It Up Bakowski Bridge of Lights Texas
Street Bridge Lighting Project team teaching Title 1 students
how to program and design for the Texas Street
Bridge/Bakowski Bridge of Lights project.

[Adopt-A-Light Show](#) Donor show creator and artist for the
Shreveport Regional Arts Council

Featured Artist GlowFest October 7, 2022 Bakowski Bridge of
Lights

<https://culturalyst.com/mimirankinwebb>

<http://shreveport.macaronikid.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/MacKidShreveport.Bossier/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ShreveportBossierMomsInTheKnow/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ShreveportBossierMomsIntheKnow/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/shreveportfamilysupportnetwork/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ArtistAndAdvocateLaCANRegion7/>

<https://www.facebook.com/318Rocks>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mimi-rankin-webb-60ab4a12/>