



William Rainey
Kansas City, MO

“William Rainey’s canvases are like maps of human experience or thought process, where all of the input and reactions are mixed and meshed, then organized and synthesized into bite-size chunks. It is wonderful to see an artist who shows such strength in abstraction and takes such original joy in the act of painting”

– Dustin Johnson, REVIEW Magazine, Dec. 2005

PENTIMENTOS: SEEN and UNSEEN 2022

A pentimento is the reappearance of an original painting or drawing that has been painted over by the artist.

You may have heard of the pentimento that was found under the Mona Lisa, giving new information about the most famous painting in the world.

As I have been in the process of simplifying my work, I find that there is much more going on that is unseen. I believe painting is a series of adjustments no matter what the subject matter or lack thereof.

Continuous change occurs until the painting says we are done. My job as artist is to know when to stop.

Take time to look...there is more than first meets the eye.

Artist Statement

The process of abstract art does not translate easily to words. I am not as comfortable talking about my art as I am in making it. I listen to jazz when I paint. Jazz is an improvisation on a theme, a blend of elements in the space of time. My art is like that. My paintings always begin with drawing nonobjective shapes, the use of line to define area and to push the limits of real and abstract. I can't imagine painting something exactly as it is. That's what a camera is for. For me, color and my own emotions play the themes, blending the elements in the space of the canvas.

I require nothing special of the observer... Each viewer may see and feel what they see and feel, and play their own themes and improvisations...That way we can both be surprised.

Blue Gallery

118 Southwest Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64108

816.527.0823 voice 816.527.0826 fax BlueGalleryOnline.com website

William Rainey

Kansas City, MO

BORN Joplin, Missouri - October 21, 1943

EDUCATION Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Snowmass Village, CO
1997, 1996, 1995, 1994, 1992

Santa Fe Institute of Fine Arts, Masters Program
Santa Fe, NM, Selected to study with Nathan Olivera, 1992

Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS, 1990

Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, MO, 1965-67

Jasper County Junior College, Joplin, MO, 1963-64

University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, 1962

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE 1989 - present: Full-time artist

1969-1988: Owner and operator of
mens and womens clothing stores.

GALLERY AFFILIATIONS Blue Gallery
118 Southwest Blvd
Kansas City, MO 64108 (816) 527-0823



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Select Exhibitions

November 2022, William Rainey, PENTIMENTOS: SEEN and UNSEEN, Solo Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
November 2020, William Rainey, What I Did On My Summer Vacation, Solo Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
September 2018, William Rainey, An Exhibition Of Paintings About Nothing, Solo Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
September 2016, William Rainey, Shampoo Rinse Repeat, Solo Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
September 2014, William Rainey, DANGER: Don't Try This at Home!!!, Solo Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
October 2012, William Rainey, Featured Artist, Ariodante Gallery, New Orleans, LA
October 2011, William Rainey, All the Colors in My Paintbox, Solo Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
September 2010, Homecoming: William Rainey Retrospective, Spiva Center For The Arts, Joplin, MO
November 2009, William Rainey, Magic Show, Solo Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
August 2007, William Rainey, Solo Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
August 2005, William Rainey, Carnival, Solo Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
October 2002, William Rainey, Mary Kline-Misol, Wonderland, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
December 2000, William Rainey, Paintings From The Land of Oz, Solo Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO

Juried Shows

MOAK 4 State Regional Exhibition; Springfield Art Museum, Springfield, MO - November 2002. Juror: Marcia Manhart, Executive Director; Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, OK

Watercolor U.S.A. 1997 National Competitive Exhibition; Springfield Art Museum, Springfield, MO - June 1997. Juror: Thomas R. Toperzer, Director; Fred Jones, Jr., Museum of Art, University of Oklahoma

Dinnerware Contemporary Art Gallery 7th Biennial 7-State Juried Exhibition, Tucson, AZ - Feb. 1997. Jurors: Debra Hopkins, Curator of Photography, Scottsdale Center for the Arts; Jeffrey Moore, Director, Bluestar Art Space, San Antonio, TX

Tubac Center of the Arts Winter Juried Exhibit, Tubac, AZ - Jan. 1997. Juror: Lee Karpisak, Asst. Director, University of Arizona Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ

11th Annual Juried Competition: The Fine Arts Center, Lubbock, TX - Nov. 1996. Juror: Frances Culpitt, Assoc. Professor Art History, University of Texas

46th Spiva Annual Juried Competitive; George Spiva Center For The Arts, Joplin, MO - March 1996. Juror: David Turner, Director Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

Cheekwood National Contemporary Painting Competition, Nashville, TN, Nov.-Dec. 1995. Jurors: Inge-Lise Eckmann, Deputy Director of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art - Robert Ryman, Artist, New York

13th Annual River Market Regional Exhibition, Kansas City, MO - June 1995. Juror: Marti Mayo - Director, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX

12th Annual Art in the Woods Juried Exhibition, Overland Park, KS - May 1995. Juror: Christopher Brown, Artist and Educator, San Francisco, CA

53rd Annual Juried Exhibition; Sioux City Art Center, Sioux City, IA - April 1995. Juror: Sheila Stewart-Leach, Director of the Polk Museum of Art, Lakeland, FL

45th Spiva Annual Juried Competitive: George Spiva Center for the Arts - March 1995. Juror: Warren Rosser, Chair; Department of Painting-Printmaking, Kansas City Art Institute

44th Spiva Annual Juried Competitive; Spiva Art Center, Joplin, MO - March 1994. Juror: Warren Rosser, Chair; Department of Painting-Printmaking, Kansas City Art Institute

River Market Regional Exhibition; Kansas City, MO - June 1993. Juror: Susan Sterling, Curator Contemporary Art, The National Museum of Women in the Arts

14th Salina Art Center Annual Juried Body of Work Show; Salina, KS - 1993. Juror: Inge-Lise Eckmann, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

MOAK 4 State Regional Exhibition; Springfield Art Museum, Springfield, MO - Dec. 1992. Juror: Thomas R. Toperzer, Director; Fred Jones, Jr., Museum of Art, University of Oklahoma

Re: Members '92 Kansas City Artist Coalition; Kansas City, MO - Oct. 1992. Juror: Dr. Novelene Ross, Chief Curator, The Wichita Art Museum



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Northern National Art Competition, Nicolet College, Rhinelander, WI – July 1992. Juror: Carole D. Barnes, Artist

New American Talent National Competition; Laguna Gloria Art Museum, Austin, TX – May 1992. Juror: Madeleine Grynstejn Curator, San Diego

Museum of Contemporary Art Aesthetics '92 Juried National Exhibition; McPherson, KS – April 1992. Juror: Linda Faw-Light, Artist

42nd Spiva Annual Juried Competitive; Spiva Art Center, Joplin, MO – March 1992. Juror: Martha Gerlarden, Director, Ford Gallery, Eastern Michigan University

Re: Members '92 Kansas City Artist Coalition; Kansas City, Mo – March 1992. Juror: Ree Schonlav, Director, Bemis Foundation, Omaha, NB

The Delta Art Exhibition; Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AR – Oct. 1991. Juror: George Adams, Frumkin/ Adams Gallery, New York City

River Market Regional Exhibition; Kansas City Mo – June 1991. Juror: Neal Benezra, Curator Twentieth Century Painting, The Art Institute of Chicago

41st Spiva Annual Juried Competition; Spiva Art Center, Joplin, MO – March 1991. Juror: Deborah Jordy, Associate Curator Contemporary Art, Denver Art Museum

Springfield Art Museum Biennial Exhibition; Springfield, MO – Dec. 1990. Juror: Harry Krug, Chair Art Department, Pittsburg State University

40th Spiva Annual Juried Competitive; Spiva Art Center, Joplin, MO – March 1990. Juror: Gary Coulter, Artist

Spiva Art Center May Competitive, Joplin, MO – May 1967

1st Annual Missouri State Student College & University Art Competition 1967

Awards and Honors

Watercolor U.S.A. Honor Society Purchase for the Museum :Collections, June, 1997

Watercolor U.S.A. Awarded 3rd Cash Award, June, 1997

11th Annual Juried Competition, The Fine Arts Center, Lubbock, TX. Awarded Juror Choice Award, Nov.–Dec. 1996

MOAK 4 State Regional Exhibition, Springfield Art Museum. Awarded 1st Cash Prize – Dec. 1992

New American Talent National Competition, Austin, TX. Awarded inclusion into traveling show – May 1992

Aesthetics '92 Juried National Exhibition, McPherson, KS. Awarded 2nd prize – April 1992

42nd Spiva Annual Juried Competitive, Joplin, MO. Awarded 3rd prize – April 1992

Spiva Art Center May Competitive Awarded 3rd prize and purchase award – May 1967

1st Annual Missouri State College & University Art Competition. Awarded 2nd prize. – May 1967

Member, Delta Phi Delta Honorary Art Fraternity – 1966/67

Select Corporate Collectors

Foland, Wickens, Eisfelder, Roper and Hofer, PC – Kansas City, MO

Lanard Toys Ltd. – Hong Kong

Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP – Kansas City, MO

Data Systems International – Kansas City, MO

Restaurant Management Company – Wichita, KS

Missouri Bank – Kansas City, MO

The Conafay Group – Washington, DC