

Anna Ryan Drew

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Bio and Curriculum Vitae

Anna Ryan Drew is a mixed media painter with a working studio and gallery in South Bend, Indiana. Anna was born an artist in a lineage that exposed her to a magical world where nothing was off-limits. She embraces this boundlessness, and it continues to inspire her contextual practice—Anna engages in art as a social advocacy, presenting an energy that ignites her viewers to become empowered. Anna’s own ignition was a diagnosis of manic-depressive illness as a teenager. Her work depicts the story of finding what she calls her crown. Her figurative work drawing both suffering and triumph invites the viewer to be part of humanity’s battle to end a culture of shame.

Anna has created a large body of work over twenty years that follows her own journey to the depths of losing her mind and reclaiming it. She began her Self-Portrait Series in 1996 while studying under Janie Paul at the University of Michigan. Looking for groundedness after her first manic episode, she found it in art and self-portrait. For many years she had only a very little faith that “it will be okay,” so she often painted an aura around herself – it had to with not feeling contained. That old faith carried through her until recently. In the last two years, that aura shifted to a crown. It’s a significant shift – now she’s speaking to that eighteen-year old, “remaking the past. It was a mindset that kept me in chains.”

Thanks to Buzz Alexander, also at the University of Michigan, Anna frequently combined her study of art/painting with engagement in social justice through work with those that can be seen as circumstantially not having very much freedom: people in prisons, the juvenile detention system, and inner-city Detroit high school. She identified that theme of freedom with her own feeling of not feeling free to be herself or even understanding that would mean in her with this new Bipolar-spin on it. This led her to combine her passions for creating art and healing by completing a Masters in Social Work. Several years ago, she transitioned to a full-time artist and committed to a macro-level of activism through her work which includes her own gallery, her powerful social media outreach, and community workshops and engagement with her collectors around the country—all the while wearing her crowns and being art both on and off the wall. In October, 2018, it was her great honor to donate a painting entitled “You are Enough” to the University of Michigan’s Prechter Bipolar Program in honor of its Principal Investigator Dr. Melvin McInnis and author Kay Redfield Jamison upon the occasion of Ms. Jamison’s delivery of the 12th Annual Prechter Lecture. Two .jpg images of that piece are included in [this Dropbox folder](#).

Selected Exhibitions

2019

All Art Works. New York, New York
The Alchemist Daughters. Art Studio/Gallery, South Bend, Indiana

2018

New York Fashion Week Private Collectors. The Bowery Hotel, New York, New York
Miami Art Week: Superfine Art Fair. Miami Art Deco Building, South Beach, Florida

Donation of You Are Enough. Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Program, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Shout It Out For Art. Art Association, Elkhart, Indiana
Bring On The Crowns. A.R. Drew Studio/Gallery, South Bend, Indiana
Irish Eyes Gala. Taj Pierre, New York City, New York
Spring Collectors Show. Art Prize Hub, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Collaborative Art Series. Fulton Street Collective, Chicago, Illinois
Is There Mother In the House. Woman Made Gallery, Chicago Illinois
Handbag Series Launch. Luxury Garage Sale, Chicago, Illinois

2017

Spring Collectors Show. Art Prize Hub, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Bubblegum And Bullet Holes And the Absurdity Of It All, Installation with Brooke Marks Swanson. . . . Art Prize,
City Water Building Richard App Gallery, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Art Beat. South Bend, Indiana
Opening of Studio Space. South Bend, Indiana
Shout It Out. Elkhart, Indiana
Irish Eyes Gala. Taj Pierre, New York City, New York
Chicago Paints The World. World Sport Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Chicago Social Magazine, Performance Live Painting. Armazem Showroom, Chicago, Illinois
Art Lights. South Bend Museum of Art, South Bend, Indiana

2016

Midwest Museum Annual Exhibition. Midwest Museum of Art, Elkhart, Indiana
Aspiration Series, ArtPrize 8. City Water Building, Richard App Gallery, Grand Rapids, Michigan
ArtPrize 8 Friday Night Live. City Water Building, Richard App Gallery, Grand Rapids, Michigan
New Connections (2-person). Richard App Gallery, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Lineage Art Show. Peggie O'Neill, Mishawaka, Indiana
Celebrating the Art of A.R. Drew (solo). N. Wirt Design & Gallery, Elkhart, Indiana
The Artist Spring Show. Richard App Gallery, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Collectors Show/SPRING. ArtPrize & Tyler Loftis & Michael Coleman, Grand Rapids, Michigan

2015

A.R. Drew Art Opening in support of Kelly Cares (pop-up). Uptown Kitchen, Granger, Indiana
Elkhart Art Walk, Featured Artist. N. Wirt Design & Gallery, Elkhart, Indiana

2014

Elkhart Art Walk. Taig Marks, Elkhart Indiana
Art is a Bridge. Better Block South Bend, South Bend, Indiana

2003

Midwest Regional Annual Juried Art Exhibition. Elkhart, Indiana

2002

Surreal Art by Anna Ryan Drew. Benton Harbor, Michigan

Awards and Honors

ArtPrize Spring Collectors Show. Grand Rapids 2016
Best Body of Work. Art Walk 2015
Midwest Regional Juried Exhibition. Midwest Museum of Art 2003
Lewis Watercolor Award. University of Michigan 1999
Annual Art Exhibition Painting Award. University of Michigan 1999
Exhibited with regional and nationally renowned artists including Robert De Niro Sr., Paul Rothko, Leland Bell,
Bob Thompson and Nancy Swan Drew

Commissions 2016–2018

One Series Noir, 48x60, Mixed Media. Private Commission, Elkhart, Indiana
Stanley Clark School, 30x40, Live Painting Performance Piece. Corporate Commission, South Bend, Indiana
Navarre Hospitality Group, Artisan Restaurant. Corporate Commission, Elkhart, Indiana
Ronald McDonald House of Michiana, 30x40, Acrylic. Corporate Commission, South Bend, Indiana
Barebones 30x60, Mixed Media. Private Commission, Elkhart, Indiana
50/50, 30x40, Acrylic. Private Commission, Elkhart, Indiana
Abstract, 30x60. Private Commission, Chicago, Illinois
Group Collection. Private Collector, Miami, Florida

Selected Work Experience

2002–09 Multiple Community Agencies. . . . Utilized clinical and artistic skills to promote mental health and
happiness as a therapeutic tool
2002 YWCA Womens Sheleter, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Art as Healing—Week without Violence Campaign
1999 University of Michigan Veterans Hospital, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Art Workshop with Veterans
1999 Adrian Training School, Adrian, Michigan. Art with Juvenile Offenders
1997–99 Henery Ford High School, Detriot, Michigan. Henry Ford Mural

Bibliography

Shannon Miller, “Artist in Residence”, Granger Living, Febuary 2016. 6.
Andrew Merica, “Life in Color”, Michiana Life, Michiana Life, Fall 2015. 20.
Andrew Skipper, “Inspiring One Another with Anna Ryan Drew of A.R. Drew ART”
www.andrewskipper.com, Blog, February, 2017.
Leadra Beabout, “Artist Spotlight, Anna Ryan Drew Uses Paint to Make Create Change, Enrich Lives” Goshen
News, November 2017
Jessi Schultz, Gun Control Creating dialogue through art, WSBT/CBS, 2017, South Bend, Indiana.
Julia Palazzo, Artists Collaborate to Speak Out Against Gun Violence, ABC57, 2017, South Bend, Indiana

Philanthropy Partnerships

Big Brother Big Sisters of St. Joseph County
Ronald McDonald House of Michiana
Child & Parent Services
South Bend Center for the Homeless
Kelly Cares Foundation
Boys & Girls Club of Elkhart County
Reigns of Life
Boys & Girls Club St. Joseph County
Oaklawn, Elkhart, Indiana
LoveWay, Elkhart, Indiana

Education

Master of Social Work. Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan 2002
Bachelor of Fine Arts. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 1999