

David D. Oquendo
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Short Biography

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico – and raised in New Jersey. In 2009, David D. Oquendo completed his undergraduate degree at Rutgers University (Newark Campus), earning a BFA in Painting and a Minor in Art History. While attending Rutgers, Oquendo was mentored by the late Denyse Thomasos; in addition to earning the Creative Achievement in Fine Arts Award – for outstanding accomplishment in fine arts reflecting creativity and dedication.

In 2012, he earned an MFA in Painting from Montclair State University. Oquendo has shown his work in New Jersey, New York, Florida, United Kingdom; as well as created murals throughout New Jersey and New York.

Oquendo's most notable exhibitions are a 2016 solo show at Solo(s) Project House in Newark, NJ, as well as a 2017 solo show at the Henao Contemporary Center in Orlando, FL. Currently David is an Art educator through The Robeson Galleries at Rutgers University, and an Adjunct Professor at Bard Early College in Newark, NJ.

Statement

For a handful of years, David D. Oquendo has developed a personal constructed script. He calls this writing system, “Metaphrase”. This “Metaphrase” is a series that includes large-scale wall renderings (indoor and outdoor) and mixed media paintings. The artwork explores the artist’s ideas and questions of identity, language, meditation, religion and life.

The genesis of the series is personal. The artist was diagnosed with a learning disability as a child; causing difficulty in speech, comprehension, translation and writing. The non sequitur has become increasingly fascinating for the artist in regards to idiomatic phrases, music and identity through language.

Each letter is a system that has been influenced by Textualis Quadrata with hints of Arabic and Hebrew calligraphy. Completion finds the balance between obfuscate text and the beauty of calligraphy. With this series, Oquendo challenges the notion of what language must be, how language must be used and how language must look like.

CV

EDUCATION

Montclair State University **2012**
Masters Degree in Fine Arts

Rutgers Newark University **2009**
Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts

Solo Exhibitions

2018

“NO QUARTER”, The Collective Art Tank, Asbury Park, NJ

2017

“Metaphrase: This Isn’t Wonderland”, Henao Contemporary Center, Orlando, FL

2016

“Metaphrase: Idioms”, Solo(s) Project House, Newark, NJ

2015

“Square Knot X Square Knot”, C.R.E.A.M Gallery, Brooklyn, New York, NY

2014

“Black, Grey & White: Small & Intimate Work for a Small & Intimate Space”,
VaMoose Café, Kearny, NJ

Dual Artists Exhibitions

2014

“The Lemniscate”, Fisher Hall Gallery, Horace Mann Prep School, Bronx, NY

Installations /Mural Projects

2016

Gateways To Newark {PORTRAITS}, Newark, NJ

2015

“Clouds Tip Toeing Around A Giant’s Neck”, (Mural) in Conjunction with The
Paterson Art Walk, The ART FACTORY, Paterson, NJ

“You Are Now Here”, The Gateway Project – Concourse Exhibition, Newark, NJ

2014

“The Fall From Space” (Mural) in Conjunction with The Paterson Art Walk, The
ART FACTORY, Paterson, NJ

2012

“Soma, Trickster & Myself”. Paul Robeson Galleries – Messier Gallery, Newark,
NJ

“Decide What to Be & Go Be It”, Solo(s) House Project, Newark, NJ

Group Exhibitions

2017

“WORD PLAY”, Maloney Gallery at St. Elizabeth College, Morristown, NJ

“TRANSPARENCY”, I.M.A.G.E. Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2016

“Queen of Angels: When A Church Dies”, Arts & Artifacts of Newark, Newark, NJ

“Mediums: Dormant Purpose”, Femme Curator Arts, Newark ,NJ

“Open Orange” at Firehouse Gallery, Orange NJ

“Cinco De Mayo” curated by Artemisa Gallery

2015

“ESKFF: Selections from 2011-2015”, Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation, Jersey City, NJ

“NEWark muraLIST”, Yendor Arts, Newark, NJ

2014

“Sanctuary” in Conjunction with Newark Open Doors 2014

“In-Site: The Creative Process in Plain View”, Paul Robeson Galleries, Newark, NJ

“THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS”, The Gateway Project, Newark, NJ

“NEUMANN Will Never DIE”, 321 Newark Street, Hoboken, NJ

“DISCONNECT”, The Farm, Soho, NYC

“The Baby Series: DIENTES”, Solo(s) Project House, Newark, NJ

“EMRUPT; International Contemporary Art Exhibition”, Leigh Wen Fine Art, Manhattan, NY

“Digital Exhibition”, See|Me Gallery, New York, NY

2013

“LOVE OVER EVERYTHING”, curated by Akintola Hanif at The Metropolitan, Newark, NJ

“STIGMATA”, presented by Rodney Gilbert and Yendor Productions, Newark, NJ

“The Gateway Project”, presented by Solo(s) Project House, Newark, NJ

“The Story Of The Creative”, presented by See.Me at Angel Orsensanz Foundation, New York, NY

“Beginning Of A New Era, Call For Bushwick, 2013 – 1st Ed.”, curated by Alessandro Berni, Brooklyn, NY

“(IM)POSSIBILITIES”, Solo(s) Project House, Newark, NJ

“(IM)POSSIBILITIES @ P.G. Chambers School”. SPH, Cedar Knolls, NJ

“Stereoscope”, INDEX Art Center, Newark, NJ

“People’s Choice Salon Show”, Greenpoint Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

“6x6x2013”, Rochester Contemporary Art Center, Rochester, NY

“METRO 29 @ Johnson Library”, City Without Walls, Hackensack, NJ

2012

“METRO 29”, City Without Walls, Newark, NJ

“Horse Designed by Committee”, White Box, Manhattan, NY

“Fresh Meat”, Shore Institute of Contemporary Arts, Asbury Park, NJ

“MSU at Goldsmith’s”, Goldsmith’s College, London, UK

“Sit With Monk Puppy”, MSU MFA Gallery, Montclair, NJ

“Raise the Roof”, Solo(s) Project House, Newark, NJ

2011

“Young Blood”, Amos Eno Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

- “Untitled”, Art Kitchen Gallery”, Newark, NJ
“Untitled”, Solo(s) Project House, Newark, NJ
“Untitled”, MSU MFA Gallery, Montclair, NJ
- 2010**
“Untitled”, MSU MFA Gallery, Montclair, NJ
- 2009**
“401 SHOW”, Paul Robeson Galleries, Newark, NJ
“Untitled”, Jajo Gallery, Newark, NJ
- 2007**
“Morbid Visions”, Newark Art Supply, Newark, NJ

Residencies

- 2016**
Solo(s) Project House Summer 2016 Residency, Newark NJ
- 2015**
Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation, Jersey City, NJ
Barat Foundation Mural Project, Newark, NJ
The Gateway Project, Newark, NJ
- 2012 - 2014**
Resident Artist at Solo(s) Project House, Newark, NJ

Art Fairs

- 2015**
Highlands Festival at Waterloo, NJ
- 2012**
Fountain Art Fair Miami 2012/Miami BASEL, Miami, FL

Commissions

- 2014**
“The Cycle”, The Life Lab, Newark, NJ
“Elevation Only: SteeveSam”, Halsey Street, Newark, NJ
“Untitled (Beads, DNA & Tentacles as landscape with Fang)”, The Art Factory,
70 Spruce Street, Paterson, NJ
“The Cycle (The Life Lab)”, Mulberry street, Newark, NJ
“The Fall From Space” (Mural) in Conjunction with The Paterson Art Walk, The
ART FACTORY, Paterson, NJ
- 2012**
Rutgers State University, Paul Robeson Galleries, Newark, NJ

Lectures, Artist Talks & Speaking Engagements

- 2014**
Q&A at Daytop School, Mendham, NJ
Newark Arts Photo Documentary Project. Documentary and Photographs by
Colleen Gutwein
- 2013**
In Conversation, Paul Robeson Galleries, Newark, NJ

Artist Talk on Space + Place, The Gateway Project, Newark, NJ
BFA Artist Discussion (Informal), Rutgers University, Newark, NJ

2012

Artist Talk with Anthony Alvarez. Solo(s) Project House, Newark, NJ
Artist Talk with Newark Collegiate Academy. Paul Robeson Galleries, Newark, NJ

2009

401 Show Artist Talk, Paul Robeson Galleries, Newark, NJ

Selected Press

2016

“GATEWAYS TO NEWARK: An Interactive Exploration of the Longest Mural in the East Coast”. NewestAmericans.com

“Un-Speaking A Theology of Otherness in David Oquendo’s ‘Metaphrase: Idioms’”, by Eric Valosin, “Not What It Is” online magazine

“Route 21 To Get The Longest Mural On The East Coast”, by Newark Pulse

“Creation of Longest Mural on the East Coast kicked off in Newark”, by Brick City Live Staff

2015

“Highlands Festival at Waterloo brings folks together with music”, New Jersey Sunday Herald

2014

“Original Murals Cover Gallery Walls”, The Horace Mann Record, by Azure Gao
“Hudson Happenings”, NJ.com, Summer Dawn Hortillosa
“An Abandoned Cubicle Complex Filled with Art”, Hyperallergic, Sharon Adarlo
“Artist Transform Vacant Office Building Into Surreal Artistic Wonderland”, The Huffington Post, Priscilla Frank

2013

FEATURED ARTIST, Manufactured Dissent, Haylee Anne
The Spirit of Essex – Spring 2013 Issue.
An Artist Made By His Influences, Latino Information Network at Rutgers (LIN@R), Rebecca Cardenas

2012

Robeson Mural, 425A, Julian Encarnacion
Soma, Trickster & Myself, Rutgers Newark Website, Caren King Choi
Monk Puppy, Glocally Newark, Blake Turner
Decide What To Be & Go Be It, Examiner.com, Alanna Garavaglia

2009

401, NewarkUSA Blog, L. Craig Schoonmaker
Eye Candy, Glocally Newark