

Indra De Jesus Arriaga Delgado

Anchorage, Alaska, US – Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico

Artist Statement

I was born a stranger; a stranger at home and a stranger afar. The long arm of history has a choking hold on the world I live in and reaches into the sub-consciousness of my people, taints institutions and suffocates the individual. It is the struggle against this hold that made me an artist. I hold a BA and MA in Political Science and do not have formal training in the arts. As an autodidactic artist, I have explored and experimented with various media. Oil painting is at the core of my artistic expression and is a point of departure; incorporating photographic processes, gel transfers and wax into my work makes my visual language robust. I grew up in rural Mexico when it was at the threshold of modernization in the late 1960's, until I came to the U.S. in the late 1970's. Those first 10 years cemented in my consciousness a way of life that was changing as fast as I was growing. Living in both places most of my life made me bilingual, bicultural and provided a place from which to see the world. The Rural Mexico of the 1970s provided the context for formative experiences; a latent undercurrent of political controversies, racism and the changing role of Women in Mexico also left an impression on me. Thirty years later, I'm able to recognize the struggle between socio-political and cultural patterns, changes propelled by the "westernization" of rural Mexico, as well as those caused by our own inertia. On a personal level I do my best to exert myself as human being, knowing full well that this is almost impossible because I am labeled no matter what I do: I am a female, I am Mexican, I am from a lower social class, I am a person of color, I am a lesbian, I am not beautiful by western standards, and my relationship with the Catholic church is characterized by a feeling of ire. But, I am determined to exist.

Biography

Indra DeJesus Arriaga Delgado was born in Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico in 1968. She immigrated with her family to the U.S. in 1976. She has lived in Texas and California currently lives and works between Alaska and her home in Mexico. Ms. Arriaga holds a Bachelors of Arts and a Masters of Art in Political Science from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas.

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Selected Exhibits (* denotes Solo exhibits, ** Museum/Juried Exhibits)

- **Alaska Positive 2010, All-state Photography Juried Show, Honorable Mention, Anchorage Museum of History and Art, Anchorage Alaska, Jan 2011
- *"Jaros", Mixed Media work, Modern Dwellers, Anchorage, AK July 2010
- **All Alaska Statewide Juried Exhibit XXXIII, Anchorage Museum of History and Art, June 2010
- **Alaska Positive 2010, All-state Photography Juried Show, Honorable Mention, Alaska State Museum, Juneau Alaska, May 2010
- "Wall of Desire", Paintings, Kaladi, Anchorage AK, June 2009
- Mixx it up!" Inlet Tower Group Show, July, Anchorage Alaska, June 2009
- **Anchorage Museum of Art Museum Gala, Painting: "Necklace", Anchorage, AK, April 2009
- **"Mesa", works on Vellum, Urban Greens, Anchorage, AK, Dec 2008
- **"Pedazos", Installation, Out North, Anchorage AK, June 2008
- **"Careful, It's my heart", Installation, International Gallery of Contemporary Art, Anchorage AK, Nov 2007
- **Anchorage Museum of Art Museum Gala, Painting: "Dolly", Anchorage, AK, April 2008
- "Miscellany", Café Savannah, Alaska, USA, Dec 2007
- **Anchorage Museum of Art Museum Gala, Painting: "We crossed the river on horseback", Anchorage, AK, April 2007
- **Rarefied Light: Juried Photographic Show, Photo: "Untitled" International Gallery of Contemporary Art, Anchorage, AK, October 2007
- **Rarefied Light: Juried Photographic Show, Photo: "Blue Moose", Anchorage Museum of Art, Anchorage, AK, October 2006
- **Anchorage Museum of Art Museum Gala, Painting: "Lotus Dancers", Anchorage, AK, April 2006
- **Anchorage Museum of Art, All Alaska Juried Show, Painting: "One Skin", Anchorage, AK, Opening January 15, 2006
- **Anchorage Museum of Art Museum Gala, Anchorage, AK, April 2005
- **"African Influences in Latin America" 3 Latin Photographers. Photographs, Mexican Museum/MCCLA, San Francisco, CA, August 2002
- "Fotografias" Group Exhibit, Photographs, Mission Cultural Center, San Francisco, CA, August 2001
- "Fotografias" Group Exhibit, Photographs, Mission Cultural Center, San Francisco, CA, August 2000
- "Mujeres 2000" Group Exhibit, Photographs and Paintings, Mission Cultural Center, San Francisco, CA, March 2000

Other

- Public Art: "We've come from so far", 1% for Art, Awarded 2009, Project award \$25,000. Anchorage, AK, Installation pending
- Public Art: Flags Project, Life Garden, Collaboration with 'Thirsty Wall', San Francisco, CA, June 1999
- Co-Founder of Green Bee Studios, Local Arts Center and Exhibit Space, February 2008-present
- Founder of the annual Dia de Muertos community and arts event in collaboration with community activists and Out North Theater, Anchorage, AK, 2004-present
- 2005- 2007: Adjunct Faculty, Liberal Arts, Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage, AK

Education

- St. Mary's University, 1997, MA, Political Science
- St. Mary's University, 1992, BA, Political Science

Articles/Interviews

- *Jury Selection*, Dawnell Smith, Reporter, Anchorage Press, Anchorage AK, May 2010
- *The {street art} Beat → Mountain View Community Road Project*, Jessica Bowen, Reporter, F Zine, Anchorage, AK May 2010
- *Cafe canvases take different approaches*, Dawnell Smith, Reported, Anchorage Daily News, December 28, 2007
- *Market Dreams for Artists*, Dawnell Smith, Interviewer, Anchorage Daily News, Anchorage, AK, July 30, 2006
- *Spot Group Show Review*, Casey Grove, Interviewer, Anchorage Press, Vol. 15 Ed. 30, Anchorage, AK, July 27, 2006
- *Creativity meets commerce*, Dawnell Smith, Interviewer, Anchorage Daily News, Anchorage, AK, December 11, 2005
- *Indra Arriaga en su nueva galleria, Spot*, El Sol de Alaska, online newspaper, Gil Sanchez, <http://www.elsoldealaska.com/>, November, 2005
- *Dead Come Alive*, Debra McKinney, Interviewer, Anchorage Daily News, Anchorage, AK November 2, 2005
- *Day of the Dead display opens Mexico native's new downtown gallery*, Lisa Demer, Interviewer, Anchorage Daily News, Anchorage, AK November 2, 2005
- *Intercambios Radio Interview*, Gil Sanchez, Interviewer, KSKA-FM Public Radio, Anchorage, AK, May 2004