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l i s a n i g r o

Education

MFA Sculpture University of Texas at Austin | 1994
BFA Painting University of Massachusetts, Amherst | 1985
Artist in Residence Vermont Studio Center | 1990

Installations

2018-19 Phoenix Rising Burning Man Festival | Black Rock City . Nevada
As a 2019 Burning Man Honorarium recipient, I redesigned this steel and found object sculpture with a small crew of volunteers and fabricators. It contains a flame effects system with an interactive component- A pulse sensor detects the participant's heart beat and activates the fire to pulse in unison with their heart. Materials: Steel, found objects, flame effects. Dimensions: 36'L x 25'W x 12'H

2016-19 Phaya Nāgas Dragon Mosaic Swing Set | Smither Park . Houston . Texas
The concept for this sculpture was inspired by the mythical serpent-like creatures believed to live in the Mekong river and estuaries of Thailand. Made with carved foam, mostly donated mosaic tile and found objects. While working in the extremely humid weather conditions of Houston with only one assistant, this project has been a challenging yet gratifying endeavor. Commissioned by the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art. Dimensions: 52'L x 7'D x 19'H

2012-15 Draka-the-Dragon Art Car Parade | Houston . Texas
A 112-foot mobile, fire-breathing beast built on a truck pulling 3 trailers, inspired by the book and Broadway play *Wicked*. http://lisanigro.com/draka.lisa_nigro.html
2015 Austin Mini MakerFaire grant to refurbish and present at Palmer Center.
2012 Houston Art Car Parade grant to refurbish for 25th Anniversary. She then toured to **Burning Flipside** at Apache Pass and **FanFest** downtown Austin, TX.

2014 Phoenix I Apogaea Festival | Denver . Colorado
A steel and found object installation partially funded by Apogaea, the Colorado Regional Burn, for exhibition theme: "Emergence."
Dimensions: 32'L x 25'W x 10'H

Grants /Awards

2022 **Individual Artist Grants** City of San Antonio, Dept. of Arts & Culture, Texas
2021-22 **Bosch Parade** "AnglerMaiden" floating sculpture design selected and funded to participate in "The Temptation of St. Anthony" on the Dommel River | 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands June 16-19, 2022. [Was postponed in 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic]
2021 **itsliquid "**Gryphon" sculpture design selected - Invitation for 2023 Exhibition | Venice, Italy
2021 "St. George Slaying the Dragon" Private Commission | San Antonio, Texas
2021 "Don Quixote" Private Commission | San Antonio, Texas
2020 **SA CARES 4 ART Grant** Dept. of Arts & Culture, City of San Antonio, Texas
2020 **Corona Arts Relief Grant** Luminaria, San Antonio, Texas
2019 **Burning Man Honorarium** Black Rock City, Nevada
2018 **FreezerBurn Art Installation Grant** Austin, Texas
2017 **Pre-Qualified List: Public Art San Antonio (PASA)** Dept. of Arts & Culture
2016 +15 14 13 **Selected Shortlist ARTPACE Programs** San Antonio, Texas
2016 **Smither Park Commission Award** Orange Center for Visionary Art, Houston, Texas
2015 **Winner** City of Dallas | Public Art Program - Fire Station #6 Sculpture Design
2015-17 **Pre-Qualified Artist Pool** City of El Paso's Museums and Cultural Affairs Department
2015 **Austin Mini MakerFaire** Austin, Texas
2014 **Apogaea Art Installation Grant** Denver, Colorado
2012 **Art in Public Places** (AIPP) Austin, Texas
2012 **Texas Art Garden Grant** Austin, Texas
2012 06 04 **Orange Show Center for Visionary Art Grant** Houston, Texas
2004 **Houston Art Car Museum Transportation Grant** Houston, Texas
2000-01 **Black Rock Art Foundation Grant** San Francisco, California

1999 **Burning Man Grant** San Francisco, California
1989 **Basil H. Alkazzi Award** in Painting for Travel to London, New York, New York

Exhibitions

2022 "**Femina 2022**" An online exhibition celebrating International Women's Day organized by **Gallerium** with art works also presented in *The Book of Art: Femina* publication.
2021 "**What I Did On My Covid Vacation**" at **The Art Car Museum** Houston, TX
2020 "**One People, Many Paths: The Sacred Art of Altars**" Celebration Circle 16th Annual Online Exhibition and Auction, #SacredArtOfAltars San Antonio, TX
2019 "**Metamorphosis**" Phoenix Rising at **Burning Man**, Black Rock City, NV
2019 "**Rowdy Women Take Over**" South Texas Museum of Popular Culture, San Antonio, TX
2019 "**One People, Many Paths: The Sacred Art of Altars**" Celebration Circle 15th Annual Art Exhibition, **Brick at Blue Star Arts Complex**, San Antonio, TX
2019 "**All Hands On Deck**" Skateboard Art Exhibition **Brick at Blue Star Arts**, San Antonio, TX
2019 "**25th Annual El Corazón Exhibition**" at **Bath House Cultural Center**, Dallas, TX
2018 "***Animals***" Group Exhibition at **The Art Car Museum**, Houston, TX
2018 Two Person Exhibition at **Art Matters** at **Blue Star Art Complex**, San Antonio, TX
2018 "**Film Awards Nite & Art Exhibition**" **South Texas Museum of Popular Culture** SATX
2018 "**Hot Concrete in July**" Group Exhibition at **Concrete Gallery**, San Antonio, TX
2017 "***30th Dia de los Muertos* Retablo Exhibition**" **Lawndale Art Center**, Houston, TX
2017 "**Sister Solidarity II**" Group Exhibition **Movement Gallery/Galeria del Movimiento** SATX
2017 "***23rd Annual El Corazón Exhibition"*** Bath House Cultural Center, Dallas, TX
2016 "**Lives Matter***"* Group Exhibition at **The Art Car Museum**, Houston, TX
2016 "**Vagina Womb Room***"* private commission for art bus at **Art Car Parade**, Houston, TX
2016 "**Dia de los Muertos *Retablo* Exhibition**" Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX
2016 "**One People, Many Paths:Sacred Art of Altars**" Santikos **Bijou Cinema Gallery**, SATX
2016 **Open Studio** All Woman Group Exhibition **Mercury Project**, San Antonio, TX
2016 "**Sister Solidarity**" Group Exhibition **Movement Gallery/Galeria del Movimiento** SA, TX
2016 "**Bodies Exposed**" 2 Person Show at **Blue Star Arts Complex**, produced by CAM SA, TX
2016 "**Art at the Jalapeno**" Group Exhibition at **High Wire Arts Gallery**, San Antonio, TX
2016 "**Art, Mind & Science**" Group Exhibition at **Brick at Blue Star Arts**, San Antonio, TX
2015 "**EAST**" Group Exhibition at **Big Medium**, Austin, TX
2015 "**Reincarnation**" Group Exhibition at **The Art Car Museum**, Houston, TX
2015 **The Cube Project** at **Burning Man**, Black Rock Desert, NV
2015 "**Art at the Jalapeno**" Group Exhibition at **High Wire Arts Gallery**, San Antonio, TX
2015 "***From Her: An Exhibition by Women about Women***" *In honor of National Women's History Month* at **El Pueblo de Los Ángeles Historical Monument** Los Angeles, CA
2014 **Ggallery** Group Exhibition, Houston, TX
2014 **ArtCrawl** Group Exhibition at **The Silo**, Houston, TX
2014 "***Una Noche en La Gloria - Contemporary Art in the Cultural Zone***" San Antonio
2014 "***Solo Show***" **Melinda Martinez Gallery** San Antonio, TX
2014 "***Emergence***" **Apogaea Festival** Colorado Regional Burn, Boulder, CO
2014 "***On and Off Fred***" Group Exhibiton, San Antonio, TX
2013 "***The Gun Show***" Group Exhibition **The Art Car Museum**, Houston, TX
2013 "***White Linen Nights***" **Houston Contemporary Fine Art Gallery** Houston, TX
2013 **2nd Annual Summer Street Arts Festival** Group Exhibtion, Houston, TX
2010 ***Electric Daisy Carnival*** – **Big Art Studios** *Infinitarium Project* Los Angeles, CA
2009 "***Ripper Society Exhibition & Auction***" **JellyFish Gallery** San Francisco, CA
2009 "***Planes, Trains, Bikes & Cars***" Group Exhibition **The Art Car Museum**, Houston, TX
2007 06 05 04 **Everyones Art Car Parade** Houston, TX *Draka* 1st Place Best Art Car in 2005.
2006 ***Art Outside*** Group Exhibition at **The Enchanted Forest**, Austin, TX
2005 **ArtCrawl** Group Exhibition at **Commerce Street Studios**, Houston, TX
2004 "***Two Halves, One Whole: Exploring Gender Archetypes***" **SOMARTS Gallery** SF, CA
2003 "***Beyond Belief***" **Burning Man Art Festival** *Draka the Dragon:* Rebuilt after fire BRD, NV
2002 "***The Floating World***" **Burning Man Art Festival** *Dahud-Ahes the Mermaid* BRD, NV
2001 "***The Seven Ages***" **Burning Man Art Festival** *Draka as Public Transport* BRD, NV
2000 "***The Body***" **Burning Man Art Festival** *Draka the Flaming Metal Dragon:* Spirit of "Man"
1999 "***The Wheel of Time***" **Burning Man Art Festival** *Diana: Fertility Goddess as Sundial*
1998 "***The Whole Enchilada***" Group Exhibition **Whole Gallery**, San Francisco, CA
1997 "***Eclectic New Works***" Group Exhibition **Studio 402**, San Diego, CA

1995 "***TX2CH: Works on Paper***" Group Exhibition **Galerie Tumb**, Zurich, Switzerland
1994 "***Trends in Mutilation***" Group Exhibition **ArtSpace** curated by Linda Montano; Austin, TX
1993 "***A Show Without Walls***" Group Exhibition **The Artist's Cooperative of Austin** TX
1993 "***Women and Sexuality***" Group Exhibition **The Alternate Current Art Space**, Austin, TX
1991 "***The Mother of All Group Shows***" Group Exhibition **Speedway Gallery**, Boston, MA
1990 "***Salon des Refusees***" Group Exhibition **Fauve Gallery**, Amherst, MA
1990 "***27 : Exhibition of Grant Winners in Visual Arts***" **Brickbottom Gallery** Somerville, MA
1989 "***Figures and Faces***" **Wortzel Gallery** Group Exhibition, Boston, MA
1988 "***Transforming the Narrative***" **Ariel Gallery** Group Exhibition, New York, NY

PRESS

- **Voyage Houston Magazine** http://voyagehouston.com/interview/rising-stars-meet-lisa-nigro/
- **ShoutOut HTX** Interview https://shoutouthtx.com/meet-lisa-nigro-artist/ July 22, 2020
- Danner, Patrick; **San Antonio Express-News** **No Return of this Bird** Business Edition B1-B6, May 25, 2020.
  Online: ***San Antonio artist's 'Phoenix' sculpture rises from the ashes, then disappears*** https://www.expressnews.com/business/local/article/San-Antonio-artist-s-Phoenix-sculpture-15290163.php May 24, 2020.
- **Voyage Houston Magazine** http://voyagehouston.com/interview/art-life-lisa-nigro/ Nov 2018
- NK Guy; **Art of Burning Man** Taschen, London, UK September 2015
- **The Austin Chronicle** ***Draka Best of Austin- Category: Architecture & Lodging*** Sep 2013
- Martinez, Alberto **Austin American-Statesman** ***"Metal Dragon travels Texas…"***July 2012
- **H MAGAZINE** ***"Driven to Create"*** May 2007
- Kristen, Christine ***"Art & Freedom…"*** **RAW Vision** 2006 p.29-31
- Willsheer, Andy **Chroom n Flammen** ***Automotive Art*** Dec 2006
- Rice, Harvey ***"Bumper-to-Bumper Artistry"*** **Houston Chronicle** 5/14/2006 p.1B
- Vose, Kenneth E **Monster Nation: Best Transformed Vehicles Coast to Coast** 2004
- Doherty, Brian **This is Burning Man:Rise of New American Underground** 7/2004 p.195
- Westbrook, Bruce ***"Joy Rides– Wheeled Works of Wacky Art"*** **Houston Chronicle** May 04
- ***The Art of Burning Man*** **Leonardo Journal** MIT Press 11/5/2003 p.351
- Pinchbeck, Dan ***"Heat of Moment: Art &Culture of Burning Man"*** **ARTFORUM** Nov 03 p.177
- Marin, Rick ***"The Least Likely Burning Man"*** **New York Times** 9/10/2000
- Pinchbeck, Daniel ***"The Fire This Time"*** **Rolling Stone Magazine** 11/9/2000 p.118

Collaborative

2011 Guest Artist **Fire Birds of the Fifth Direction** *Atlanta, Georgia*
A project designed by Charlie Smith and partially funded by Burning Man. I worked with Charlie and several other artists on the fabrication of these four magnificent metal Fire Bird cauldrons. We conducted welding and metal fabrication workshops, and inspired many to create with metal and fire! See: http://www.sparceland.com/

2010 Assistant Artist **Gon Kirin Project** *Oakland, California*
Working alongside a group of artists, I was responsible for cutting, shaping and welding scales made from 55-gal steel drums and expanded metal to the neck and legs of this mobile dragon installation. Concept design by Ryan Doyle and Teddy Lo. Exhibited at Burning Man Art Festival Aug 30-Sept 6.

2010 Lead Artist– Big Art Studios **The Infinitarium** *Oakland, California*
As one of six lead artists, I oversaw volunteers in the design and production of two "root benches" which served as extensions flanking either side of La Fleur, the centerpiece of an over-sized botanical garden made of salvaged steel. I created a maquette, taught welding and metal fabricating workshops to potential volunteers, and performed general hands-on metal fabrication techniques. Concept & Direction by Karen Cusolito and Dan das Mann. Installation traveled to Electric Daisy Carnival, Los Angeles; Outside Lands, San Francisco; and Burning Man, NV 10' x 18' x 3'
See: http://theinfinitarium.wordpress.com/about/

2016 **Vagina Womb Room** | Houston Art Car Parade
Private commission design for interior of an art car bus. I also redesigned, fabricated and upholstered its main seating area for Houston's annual Art Car Parade.
Materials: Fabric, Foam, Faux Fur, Steel.
Dimensions: 12' x 8' x 8'

2014 Nigro Pistol | Book
A collection of photographs spanning over thirty years of myself peeing all over the world, interjected with photos of vagina imagery found in rocks and nature. The book begins with a photo taken by a sculptor friend on a beach, northern coast of France 1985. Graphics designed in collaboration with *King William Design*.

2006 VisitIng Artist Lecturer | Sonoma State University . Rohnert Park . CA

2003-04 Founder **Burnin'Bush Fire & Metal Arts Festival | Blue Wing Playa Nevada**
In celebration of our American Freedoms over 4th of July weekend, I founded and co-organized the implementation of this donation run event. We offered blacksmithing and metal fabricating workshops, and featured sculpture and fire art installations on a remote desert playa in conjunction with an art car parade, which I personally organized, through the nearby town of Gerlach. We encouraged art car artists, sculptors, propane fire-art enthusiasts, and installation artists to attend, camp out in nature, get creative, and bring their art cars and art out for display.

Teaching

2021-Present Professor Ceramics | **Southwest School of Art / UTSA . San Antonio**
2013-2020 Professor Sculpture | **Southwest School of Art . San Antonio**
2016-19 Welding Instructor **ArtX** | **Houston**
2014 Professor 2D Design | **Houston Community College**
2009 Professor 3D Design | **Napa Valley College . Napa, California**
2006-07 Professor 3D Design | **Texas State University – San Marcos**