

# Brian Gonnella

Artist. Muralist. Writer. Organizer.

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## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

- 2018, *The Episode of Futurama Where The Professor Creates the Universe in a Box*, .05 Gallery, Etna PA.
- 2017, *All Things Going West*, Imagebox, Pittsburgh PA.
- 2015, *100 Flowers Bloomed*, The Gallery 4, Pittsburgh PA
- 2015, *The Road is a Peril, The World is a Pearl*, Imagebox, Pittsburgh PA
- 2013, *American Eschatology*, Imagebox, Pittsburgh PA
- 2011, *Iconoclastastic*, Red Door Gallery, Pittsburgh PA
- 2011, *Postcards from Babylon*, Imagebox, Pittsburgh PA
- 2010, *Solo Exhibition at Remedy*, Remedy, Pittsburgh PA

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

- 2022, *Simply Devine: A Retrospective of Danny Devine*, 820 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh PA
- 2019, *Rival Lands* (duo show with Adam Hernandez), Blockfort, Columbus OH
- 2014, *@rt 30* (duo show with Sam Thorpe), Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Greensburg PA
- 2014, Gallery 4 "Best Of" Salon Show, The Gallery 4, Pittsburgh PA
- 2012, *Super Friends: An Art Exhibit*, Garfield Artworks, Pittsburgh PA
- 2011, *Art Through Resistance*, MINT Gallery, Atlanta GA
- 2009, *A Gallery Against Wasting Our Potential*, Future Tennant, Pittsburgh PA

## SELECTED MURALS:

- 2020, "WORKERS MAKE THE WORLD WORK", commissioned by building owner Jody Noble. Pittsburgh PA
- 2020, "OHIO BETTER ORGANIZE" commissioned by the 934 Gallery. Columbus, OH.
- 2020, "DEEP IN THE HEART (OF TEXAS)"

## EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh  
Bachelors of Liberal Arts  
Philosophy & English  
Writing  
2009

## AFFILIATIONS

Blockfort Studio & Gallery  
HOPE Outdoor Gallery  
VAULT Studios  
Youth of Kopeopeo  
Painted Desert Project  
SECRET WALLS  
Rivers of Steel  
DO WHAT YOU LOVE

## ORGANIZER/CURATOR

2014 - 2016  
Monthly Art Exhibit  
Curator  
Remedy Bar, Pittsburgh, PA

2017 - present  
founder/ lead organizer for SPIRIT WALLS, annual mural & street art event.  
Spirit Hall, Pittsburgh, PA

2020 - present  
founder/organizer with PAAC (Pittsburgh Artist's Autonomy Collective)  
dedicated to establishing legal spaces for street art & graffiti in Pittsburgh.

## ART RESIDENCIES

commissioned by HOPE Outdoor Gallery & The Native Hostel  
Austin, TX

2019, "TURAHERE TANGATA"  
commissioned by the Whakatane Museum of Art and Youth of Kopeopeo.  
Whakatane, New Zealand.

2018, "GREETINGS FROM RIVER CITY"  
commissioned by RVA Street Art Festival & Richmond Flying Squirells

2018, "EVERYONE BELONGS IN TROY HILL"  
commissioned by Scratch F&B and Troy Hill Citizens Group

2017, "CHURCH OF ART CHAPEL"  
commissioned by Mary Hockenberry, artist/owner of The Church of Art.  
Hotchkiss, CO.

2016, "DINE LAND"  
commissioned by the Painted Desert Project.  
Navajo Nation, US.

2016  
The Painted Desert Project  
Navajo Nation

2017  
Sedona Art Center Studio  
Residency  
Sedona, AZ

2017  
Church of Art Studio  
Residency  
Hotchkiss, CO

2018  
RVA Street Art Festival  
Richmond, VA

2018  
Art Basel  
Miami, FL

2019  
Volcanic Artist Residency  
Whakatane, New Zealand

2020  
934 Mural Fest  
Columbus, OH

#### SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE:

##### 1. Painted Desert Project Oct - Nov, 2016

- Residency followed by a 4 week mentorship under residency founder, artist Chip Thomas. Learned how to construct, deconstruct and assemble large scale wheatpastes onto building facades.
- learned to plan, prep and execute murals with limited resources in isolated environments.
- worked in collaboration with Indigenous Rights activists and Water Protectors in Durango Colorado to assemble a public agitprop as part of a planned demonstration.

##### 2. Youth of Kopeopeo Feb-March, 2019

- Designed a mural concept with feedback and input from the local Maori community leaders, engaging in a dialectic with the public on the composition and subject.
- lead community workshops with local youth to plan, design and then paint a supplementary mural to the main piece.
- lead an artist talk about the history of graffiti and street art in America from a political perspective for student activists from the local Maori

#### PROFESSIONAL CLIENTS

CONDADO TACOS  
2018 - present  
Mural project lead and consultant

PRECARIOUS BEER  
PROJECT  
2019  
Muralist

SCRATCH F&B  
2018 - present.  
Muralist and consultant

ROUND CORNER CANTINA  
2017  
Muralist

community.

### 3. SPIRIT WALLS

2017 - present

- Curating an annual roster of local artists, both emerging and established, to create a collaborative 80' x 20' mural at SPIRIT HALL in Pittsburgh PA.

- procuring materials through donation and private sponsorship

- On site lead for artists during the duration of the project, handling logistical concerns and troubleshooting problems on site.

### 4. CONDADO TACOS

2018 - present

- Develops a restaurant theme with corporate staff based on their research of the locality for the new restaurant.

- Finds local talent, places them within the restaurant based on my own assessment of their skill sets.

- manages site logistics during 3-4 week builds, coordinating with multiple different contractor crews to manage the space and assure work is done on time.

UMAMI/KI POLLO/KI

RAMEN

2017 - 2019

Muralist

De Fer Coffee

2019

Muralist