

Susan Arena is an artist based in Los Angeles. She is the Head of the Art Department at Crossroads Elementary School in Santa Monica CA and teaches art to children. Susan lives in a 100-year old house near the freeway with her family, a dog, and two cats.

Susan was born in a small town by the ocean in Massachusetts, next to Salem, the “witch city.” She studied at the New York Studio School in New York City and earned an MFA in Painting and Printmaking from Yale School of Art. Her work has also been shaped by travel to Egypt, India, and Mexico, and her love of the folk and sacred art of these cultures.

Susan’s work can be seen at www.susanarena.com

EDUCATION

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| 1995 | Yale University School of Art , New Haven, CT
M.F.A. Degree in Painting and Printmaking, 1995 |
| 1991-1993 | New York Studio School , New York, NY |
| 1988 | Harvard University , Cambridge, MA
B.A. Magna Cum Laude with Highest Honors |

EXHIBITIONS

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| 2020 | “We Are Here/Here We Are,” Durden and Ray, city-wide show of art displayed in public places during COVID-19 lockdown, Los Angeles, CA |
| 2020 | “Exalted One” and Seclusion:” online group shows, Gallery 825, Los Angeles, CA |
| 2019 | Solo Show: “Children & Ancestors,” Gallery 825, Los Angeles, CA |
| 2018 | “Hear Our Voices,” Avenue 50 Studio, Highland Park, CA |
| 2017 | “Cryin’ Out Loud: Women’s Voices as Expressed In Art About Politics, Activism, and Emotion, Center for Contemporary Arts, Santa Fe, NM |

2017 **“Make America,”** Gallery 825, Hollywood, CA

2016 **“Countenance Divine,”** Gallery 825, Hollywood, CA

2016 **“Cognitive Faculties,”** Faculty Show, Crossroads School, Santa Monica CA

2016 **“Exposed,”** West Hollywood Arts Center, Los Angeles, CA

2014 **“Moonlighting: Exhibition of Work by Crossroads Teaching Artists,”**
Crossroads School, Santa Monica, CA

2013 **Solo Show: “Family Totems,” Space Gallery,** Pasadena, CA

2013 **“Them,”** Surrogate Gallery Projects. Show Curated by Holly Boruck.
Pasadena, CA

2011 **Solo Show: “Day By Day”,** Indie Collective Gallery, Culver City CA

2011 **Solo Show: “Imaginary Homelands”,** Gallery 825, Los Angeles CA

2011 **“Paper Trail,”**Happy Gallery, Hollywood, CA

2010 **“This Is My Education,” Art in General Gallery,** New York, NY

2010, 2009 **“Gem,” Gallery 825,** Los Angeles CA

2009 **“My New Country”:** Curated by Rita Gonzales Gallery 825, Los Angeles
CA

2009, 2008, 2007 **Solo Shows: “House Work,” “A Girl’s Work Book,” “Play and Prophecy,”**
Indie Collective Gallery, Culver City, CA

2007 **“Second Nature,”** Tinklark Gallery, Hollywood CA

2006, 2008 **Capital Group,** Artwork represented in collection, Los Angeles, CA

2005 **“Portraits” Show, L Street Fine Art, San Diego, CA**

2003 **Lendrum Fine Art:** Represented by consulting group, Los Angeles, CA

2009, 2005, 2003 **"Fresh Start": Group Show**, Santa Monica Museum of Art, LA

2003 **Solo Show: Axel Raben Gallery**, New York, NY

2002 **"Fantasyland"**: D'Amelio Terras Gallery New York, NY

2002 **"Abundant Sugar,"** Brewery Art Center, Los Angeles, CA

2001 **"Alternative Photographic Processes,"** The Art Institute of Boston, Boston, MA

2001 **"Spitting Image: Myth and Creation of Feminine Identity"** Art Gallery at Stamford, University of Connecticut, Stamford, CT

2000 **"Flat File,"** Bellwether Gallery, Brooklyn NY

2001 **"Bridges," Waqas Wajahat, Curator**, DUMBO Art Center, Brooklyn

2000 **ArtAdvocate.com.** Artwork featured on website

1999 **"Size Matters," Mike Weiss, Curator**, GALE GATES et al., Brooklyn,

1999 **"National Competition," Graham Nickson, Juror**, First Street Gallery, New York

1999 **"National Competition," Lisa Dennison, Juror**, Phoenix Gallery, New York, NY

1998 **"What's in a Dress,"** Laurie Seeman Gallery, W. Nyack, NY

1997 **"Winter Show," Cecile Kahn, Curator** Painting Center, New York,

1997 **Group Show, William Bailey, Juror**, Bowery Gallery, New York, NY

1997 **"Color Schemes,"** Anne McKeown, Curator, Axis Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

1996 **"Pet Paintings,"** Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston MA

1996 **Works on Paper, Jonathan Shimony, Curator**, Z Space, Paris, France

1994 **"A Change of Perception," Elizabeth Hazan, Curator,** New York Studio School, New York, NY

1991,1992 **McGuffey Art Center,** Solo Painting Shows, Charlottesville, VA

WORK EXPERIENCE

2011 to present **Crossroads Elementary School, Santa Monica CA**
Head of Elementary School Art Program. Grades K-5

2010 **Artstarcamp,** Los Angeles CA
Founder and teacher. Fine arts education for children ages 6-12

2010 **IKAR Preschool,** Los Angeles CA
Preschool's Art Teacher and Art Consultant

2011 **Hands On 3rd,** Los Angeles CA
Teacher of adult art classes

2009- 2010 **Larchmont Charter School,** Los Angeles, CA
Part-time Art Teacher

2004- 2006 Santa Monica College, Los Angeles, CA
Instructor in Drawing and Painting

2000 **Pratt School of Art and Design, Department of Education,** Brooklyn, NY
Visiting Assistant Professor

2000 **NYU Department of Art,** New York, NY. Instructor in Painting

1999- 2000 **92nd Street Y Art Center,** New York, NY
Instructor in Painting and Drawing

1997-2000 **Yale University School of Art,** New Haven, CT
Lecturer in Painting/Printmaking

1996 - 1997 **Brandeis University,** Waltham, MA. Artist-in-Residence
1995-96 **Learning Through Expanded Arts Program (L.E.A.P.),** New York,

Teaching consultant for art workshops in NYC public schools

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2009 **Los Angeles Artists Association (LAAA)/Gallery 825:** Juried screening process, non-profit gallery
1998. **Vermont Studio Center, Yale School of Art Fellowship:**
Full scholarship for residence at the Center
- 1995 **Alice Kimball English Travelling Fellowship:**
Funds awarded to study tribal painting in village India,
Yale School of Art
- 1994 **Arnold Bittleman Memorial Prize:** Outstanding first-year student in
drawing, Yale University School of Art
- 1994 **Prize for Overall Excellence and Distinction in Painting,** New York Studio
School
- 1992 **The Vera List Scholarship,** funds to study at New York Studio School
- 1988 **The George P. Gardner Travelling Fellowship:** Funds awarded to study
Islamic art in Egypt, Harvard University