

# DAVID J. RUFO

*Educator – Independent Scholar – Visual Artist*  
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## PERSONAL STATEMENT

As an educator, scholar, and artist my main area of expertise is fostering critical and inquiry-based creative approaches in all areas of curriculum and teaching. In both higher education and PreK-12 classrooms, I have helped preservice teachers empower their students to become active, confident, and socially conscious participants within their learning communities.

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Teacher Education, Curriculum Studies, Interdisciplinary Learning, STEAM Education, Qualitative Research, Classroom Action Research, Narrative Inquiry, Elementary Education, Critical Pedagogy, Child-Centered Education, Hands-On Mathematical Investigations, Democratic Classrooms, Visual Culture, The Self-Initiated Creativity of Children, Contemporary Art, Art History, Art Education.

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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D.**                    **Syracuse University** Teaching & Curriculum/Teaching & Leadership - 2016  
Concentrations: Self-Initiated Creativity of Children, Action Research,  
Democratic Education, Interdisciplinary Learning. Advisor: Dr. James Haywood  
Rolling Jr.
- M.S.**                    **State University of New York at Cortland** - Summa Cum Laude – 2000  
Concentration: K-6 Mathematics
- B.S.**                    **LeMoyne College**, New York – Magna Cum Laude – 1995  
Concentration: Elementary Education
- B.F.A.**                    **Syracuse University**, New York - Fine Arts Scholarship – 1984  
Major: Studio Arts
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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2009-2017**            **Syracuse University**, Syracuse, NY  
Instructor, Art Education  
EDU 660 Art Educators as Contemporary Artists  
EDU 431 Art in the in the Classroom
- 1998-2014**            **Manlius Pebble Hill School**, DeWitt, NY  
Elementary classroom teacher  
Media Literacy instructor  
Upper School Fine Art advisor

**1995-1998**            **Tully Elementary School, Tully, NY**  
Third and Fourth grade blended classroom teacher.

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## **PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

**2015 - present**        **Education Consultant, USA**  
Clients include: schools, educational organizations

**2014 - present**        **The Portal Learning Project, Fayetteville, NY**  
Co-Founder and Director.

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## **LEADERSHIP AND ADVISORY POSITIONS**

**2014 - 2017**            **Editorial Assistant**  
*Art Education: The journal of the National Art Education Association*

**2014 - 2017**            **Guest Reviewer**  
*Art Education: The journal of the National Art Education Association*

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## **SIGNIFICANT AWARDS AND PROFESSIONAL HONORS**

**2012**                    **Syracuse University School of Education Future Professoriate Project**  
acceptance.

**2009**                    **Syracuse University Graduate Assistantship** in the department of Teaching  
and Leadership.

**1980**                    **Syracuse University Fine Arts Scholarship**

**1980**                    **New York State Scholastic Gold Key** award.

**1980**                    **New York State Scholastic Portfolio** award.

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## **INVITED LECTURES, SEMINARS, AND WORKSHOPS**

**2017**                    **Allowing Artistic Agency in the Elementary Classroom- Guest Lecturer** for  
the Department of Art and Design at Millersville University. Discussion on  
fostering and integrating creative agency in K-12 classrooms - Millersville,  
Pennsylvania.

**2017**                    **Seminar for Research in Art Education - Panelist** for SRAE Then and Now  
with Drs. James Rolling and Laura Reeder – New York, New York.

- 2016**                    **National Art Education Association – Panelist** for Super Session on Leadership in Art Education - Chicago, Illinois.
- 2016**                    **Student Initiated Creative Learning - Guest Lecturer** for the School of Education at Nazareth College with Greg Sommer. Discussion on fostering creativity in education - Rochester, New York.
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## INVITED RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS, PANELS, AND SERVICE ENGAGEMENTS

- 2016**                    **Syracuse University, New York – Panel Respondent** to dissertation research presentations by doctoral students in Art Education from Penn State University, Ohio State University, and Teachers College, Columbia University – Graduate Research in Art Education Conference. (October 28)
- 2015**                    **The JSTEA Authors’ Roundtable Invitation.** *An arts-based classroom confronts educational metanarratives: Grand narratives, local stories and a classroom teacher's story.* NAEA Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2015**                    **Seminar for Research in Art Education: Marilyn Zurmuehlen Working Papers.** *Self-Initiated Creativity in the Elementary Classroom.* NAEA Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.
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## PUBLICATIONS

### *Books & Chapters*

- Rufo, D. (2013). *Swarming toward creativity.* [Raw story data incorporated into Rolling, J. H. (2013). *Swarm intelligence: What nature teaches us about shaping creative leadership.* New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan]

### *Peer Reviewed Articles*

- Rufo, D. (2016). STEAM-ing Up the Science Fair. *Art Education*, 69(4), 12-16.
- Rufo, D. (2014). Breaking internalized teacher scripts: From traditional habits of mind to a creative mindset. *Journal of Visual Inquiry*, 3(3), 391-404.
- Rufo, D. (2014). An arts-based classroom confronts educational metanarratives: Grand narratives, local stories and a classroom teacher’s story. *Journal of Social Theory in Art Education*, 34, 18-30.
- Rufo, D. (2014). Swarming toward creativity. *Teaching Artist Journal*, 12(4), 231-234.
- Rufo, D. (2014). Big Paintings Club. *Voke*, 2. Retrieved from <http://www.vokeart.org/?p=490&spoke=1>

- Rufo, D. (2013). bUzZ: A guide to authentic and joyful creative learning. *Power and Education*, 5(2), 149-158.
- Rufo, D. (2013). Masking tape: The artist's urge to wrap. *Teaching Artist Journal*, 11(2), 107-111.
- Rufo, D. (2013). STEAM with a capital A. *The STEAM Journal*, 1(1).
- Rufo, D. (2013). Ophelia's fort. *Teaching Artist Journal*, 11(1), 43-45.
- Rufo, D. (2012). Building forts and drawing on walls: Fostering student-initiated creativity both inside and outside the elementary classroom. *Art Education*, 65(3), 40-47.
- Rufo, D. (2011). Allowing artistic agency in the elementary classroom. *Art Education*, 64(3), 18-23.

### *Invited Articles, Blogs, and Papers*

- Rufo, D. (2015) Self-Initiated Creativity in the Elementary Classroom, *Marilyn Zurmuehlen Working Papers in Art Education* (<http://ir.uiowa.edu/mzwp/>), accepted paper.
- Rufo, D. (2013, October). Math Journal Graffiti. <http://tajaltspace.com/math-journal-graffiti-david-rufo/>.
- Rufo, D. (2013, June). Whiteboard drawings: Empowering children as artists. *The Visual ARTBEAT*: <http://visualartbeat.com/whiteboard-drawings-empowering-children-as-artists-an-article-by-david-rufo/>.
- Rufo, D. (2013, June). Wolfgang Laib, fourth graders, and the openness of the artistic process. <http://tajaltspace.com/wolfgang-laib-fourth-graders-and-the-openness-of-the/>.
- Rufo, D. (2013, April). Swarming toward creativity. <http://tajaltspace.com/swarming-toward-creativity/>.
- Rufo, D. (2013, February). Checking out - Checking in. <http://tajaltspace.com/when-checking-out-is-checking-in-david-rufo/>.
- Rufo, D. (2013, February). Technique schmechnique. *The Visual ARTBEAT*, (11), 40-42.
- Rufo, D. (2012, December). Technique schmechnique. <http://tajaltspace.com/technique-schmechnique/>.
- Rufo, D. (2012, October). Masking tape. <http://tajaltspace.com/masking-tape/>.
- Rufo, D. (2012, September). Colored ice. <http://tajaltspace.com/colored-ice/>.
- Rufo, D. (2012, August). Drawing on tabletops. <http://tajaltspace.com/drawing-on-tabletops/>.
- Rufo, D. (2012, June). Ophelia's fort. <http://tajaltspace.com/ophelias-fort/>.

Rufo, D. (2012, May). Paint bomb girls. <http://tajaltspace.com/paint-bomb-girls/>.

Rufo, D. (2012, May). Snowfall. <http://tajaltspace.com/snowfall/>.

Rufo, D. (2004). Is teaching cursive a waste of time? *American Teacher*, 88(4).

***Working manuscripts:***

Rufo, D. (in preparation). Self-Initiated Creativity as Art Therapy in the Elementary Classroom (intended for *Art Education*)

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**JURIED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- 2015**                      **National Art Education Association.** Research Lecture: *Big Paintings Club*. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2015**                      **National Art Education Association.** Best Practice Lecture: *Creative Fridays: Go Create It!* New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2015**                      **National Art Education Association.** Design Issues Group Workshop: *Curating the Classroom*. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2014**                      **National Art Education Association.** Best Practice Lecture: *Designing a 21st Century Arts-Based, Child-Centered Classroom: Putting Theory into Practice*. San Diego, California.
- 2014**                      **National Art Education Association.** Research Lecture: *Beyond the Trifold Board: From Science Fair to STEAM Celebration*. San Diego, California.
- 2014**                      **National Art Education Association.** *From Bric-a-brac to Contraptions to Creation: Using the Arts, Science, and Technology to Design. Best Practice Lecture with Jaimeson Daley*. San Diego, California.
- 2014**                      **National Art Education Association.** Design Issues Group Workshop: *Classroom Design for Art Teachers and Students*. San Diego, California.
- 2013**                      **The Pennsylvania State University Graduate Research in Art Education Conference.** Dissertation Research Presentation: *Self-Initiated Creativity in the Elementary Classroom*. State College, Pennsylvania.
- 2013**                      **National Art Education Association.** Research Lecture: *bUzZ: A Natural Guide to Relevant and Joyful Creative Learning*. Fort Worth, Texas.
- 2013**                      **National Art Education Association.** *Not STEM, Not Quite STEAM, and Definitely Not Hot Air! Research Session with Jaimeson Daley*. Fort Worth, Texas.

**2013** **Manlius Pebble Hill Education Conference.** *A Democratically-based, Child-Centered Learning Environment in Theory and Practice* – DeWitt, New York.

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## CONSULTANCIES

**2015** **Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester** A Community Call to Action: *Differentiated Instruction in K-6 Classrooms*. Rochester, New York

**2015** **Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester** Professional Development for Teachers from the JCC Wolk Children's Center and Temple Beth El's Keshet Preschool: *Keynote Address on Multiple Intelligences*. Rochester, New York

**2015** **Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester** Professional Development for Teachers from the JCC Wolk Children's Center and Temple Beth El's Keshet Preschool: *Nature and Art*. Rochester, New York

**2015** **Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester** Professional Development for Teachers from the JCC Wolk Children's Center and Temple Beth El's Keshet Preschool: *Mathematical Dialogue in Children's Play (3 to 4 years)*. Rochester, New York

**2015** **Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester** Professional Development for Teachers from the JCC Wolk Children's Center and Temple Beth El's Keshet Preschool: *Mathematical Narration in Children's Play (8wks to 2 years)*. Rochester, New York

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## GRANTS AND FUNDING APPLICATIONS

**2016** **"The Benefits and Challenges of Merging Self-Initiated Creativity with STEAM Learning in the Elementary Classroom"** (\$10,000). Grant application to The National Art Education Foundation (NAEF) under the category of NAEF Research Grants.– *In review status*

**2016** **Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$400)**. Grant awarded from Syracuse University under the category of School of Education Travel Grants.

**2013** **Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$400)**. Grant awarded from Syracuse University under the category of School of Education Travel Grants.

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## PEDAGOGICAL AND CURRICULAR PROJECTS

**The Portal Learning Project** offers home school families a space for their children to engage in self-directed, hands-on, discovery-based learning opportunities. In these democratic academic settings, teachers act as guides to help facilitate individualized student learning. Students may engage in a variety of investigations such as science experiments, mathematical inquiries, language arts activities, arts-based learning, kinesthetic learning or historical research. The investigations culminate in student led presentations in which they share their learning, discoveries, challenges, and achievements.

**Contemporary Art Studio** – Contemporary Art Studio is an after school program designed for Upper School students interested in learning about contemporary art. Students are provided with opportunities to discuss, analyze, and critique a wide variety of artists, artworks, theories, and ideas. Students are provided studio time to work on their art, broaden their personal aesthetic, and develop as artists.

**Creative Studio** – Creative Studio is designed as an open-ended visual arts exploration for students in the elementary grades who desire additional outlets for their creative energies. Each session begins with a brief arts-based presentation to inspire and stimulate a creative mindset. Students then embark on their own explorations. Students may paint, draw, sculpt, or make movies. The instructor provides guidance and professional artistic mentorship.

**Big Paintings Club** – Big Paintings Club is an after school program designed for students to explore the act of large format painting unencumbered by the constraints and practices of traditional art room settings. Fifth graders engage in the painting process free from school art conventions such as exemplars, templates, rubrics, and teacher-direction instruction on materials and techniques. The club meets for an hour each Friday afternoon over the course of four consecutive weeks. Each student is supplied with a 4 by 4 foot section of heavyweight double-sized paper, one 4 by 4 foot hardboard panel, a variety of brushes, rollers, putty knives, pencils, markers, commercial latex house paint and school grade tempera paint. Photographic evidence of the processes as well as the final products is used to examine the effects of artistic agency on the large format paintings of elementary school children.

**Math Palooza** – Math Palooza is an elementary classroom project designed to encourage and support creative learning in fourth and fifth grade math classes by incorporating hands-on, kinesthetic, and arts-based explorations. Math Palooza resembles the midway at a county fair as students create and host math-based games and musical performances while others work as assistants, documentarians or concession and ticket stand operators. Through this process the students apply their math skills in innovative and creative ways and show evidence of their learning by incorporating mathematical concepts into their games and activities.

**Math TV** – Math TV is an elementary classroom project designed to empower students to more deeply engage in their learning of mathematical concepts in a lively and energetic way. Students use a close-circuit set up (a video camera connected to a television monitor) to produce an in-class show called Math TV. Students take turns being the host, cameraperson, and sound effects engineer as they lead the class through a review of previous lessons and the introduction of new material.

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## GALLERY PROJECTS, EXHIBITIONS, AND ARTISTIC PRACTICE

### *Solo Art Exhibitions*

2011	Solomon Art Gallery, DeWitt, New York
2005	Matthews, Syracuse, New York
2004	Cazenovia Library Art Gallery
2002	Scuderi Estate, Manlius, New York
2001	Bersani Estate, Skaneateles, New York
2000	Solomon Art Gallery, DeWitt, New York
1997	Robert J. Spring Gallery, New York, New York
1995	Alldays Gallery, Bennington, Vermont
1993	Wilson Art Gallery, LeMoyne College, New York
1992	Alldays Gallery, Bennington, Vermont
1990	12 Rooms Gallery, Syracuse, New York

### *Group Art Exhibitions*

2017	Geras Tousignant Gallery, Palm Springs, California
2016	Soho Arthouse, New York, New York
2016	Western Design Conference, Jackson Hole, Wyoming
2016	Studio 10 Gallery, NOMENCoLoRATURE, Brooklyn, New York
2013	Solomon Art Gallery, DeWitt, New York
2011	Smith Hall Gallery, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York
2011	Pamela Williams Gallery, Amagansett, New York
2010	Coyne Gallery, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York
2009	Syracuse University Faculty Show XL Projects, Syracuse, New York
2008	Noble Room Gallery Dualities: Teacher as Artist, Syracuse University
2007	Pamela Williams Gallery, Amagansett, New York
2007	White Cube Gallery, Syracuse University, New York
2007	Saatchi Gallery Online, <a href="http://www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk">www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk</a>
2006	AAF Contemporary Art Fair, New York, New York
2006	Cazenovia Library Art Gallery, New York
2005	AAF Contemporary Art Fair, New York, New York
2005	Modern Art foundry: "A Foundry Affair" New York, New York
2005	Spring Gallery, "Bronze Sculpture" Belgrade Lakes, Maine
2005	Solomon Art Gallery, DeWitt, New York
2004	AAF Contemporary Art Fair, New York, New York
2004	Spring Gallery, Belgrade Lakes, Maine
2003	Alternative Space Gallery, New York, New York
2001	Alternative Space Gallery, New York, New York
1994	12 Rooms Gallery, Syracuse, New York
1992	Robert J. Spring Gallery, New York, New York
1991	Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York
1990	Marine Midland Bank, Syracuse, New York

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## PRESS APPEARANCES

(2016, September). David Rufo: Simple Complexities. Retrieved from [http://artbookguy.com/david-rufo-simple-complexities\\_1041.html](http://artbookguy.com/david-rufo-simple-complexities_1041.html)

(2014, February 15). Graffiti Math Journal [Web log post]. Retrieved from <http://meartsed.wordpress.com/2014/02/15/graffiti-math-journal/>

Neale, S. (2012). Fort building and other creativity motivators. *The Star*, 10(2), 6.

Gullo, S. (2011, Spring). Fourth grade earns kudos as classroom of the future. *Reflections*

Zimmerman, T.S. (2011, March 21). Article by MPH teacher to appear in national journal. *Eagle News*.

Kirst, S. (2004, March 9). Paintings by David Rufo on exhibit in Cazenovia. *Syracuse Post Standard*.

Conway, K. (2003, December 23). Is handwriting on the wall? Some say schools should stop teaching cursive writing. *Syracuse Post Standard*.

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## CREDENTIALS AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

**New York State** – Department of Education, Permanent Certification: N-6

**National Art Education Association** - Higher Education

**National Art Education Association** - Elementary Education

**National Art Education Association** - Seminar for Research in Art Education