

Julian Prairie

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(He/They)

Profile

A dedicated and versatile figurative sculptor with 6+ years' experience developing sculptures in clay from initial concept to final installation. Skilled in portraiture and collaborative community projects, with expertise ranging from small-scale studies to larger-than-life works. Technical skills include mold-making, casting, stone mounting finishing, studio instruction, and project management. Passionate about community-engaged art practices through public programming and educational outreach.

Education

Grand Central Atelier, New York, NY 2020 - 2025

Specialized training in figurative sculpture, technical/structural drafting, and human anatomy

Evergreen College, Olympia, WA 2017

Bachelor of Arts

Major: Studio Arts & Art Theory

Minor: Philosophy & Art History

Experience

Independent Artist, Figurative Sculptor 2019 - Present

Produced sculptural works ranging from public art portraiture and music video artworks to gallery exhibitions, leading artistic processes from concept through installation. Built proficiency in mold-making and casting techniques for plaster and wax sculptures using silicone and plaster waste mold methods.

Sculpture Studio Assistant & Instructor, Grand Central Atelier 2021 - 2025

Supported studio operations through clay recycling and purchasing, tool organization, studio cleaning, and maintenance of safety standards. Taught first-year students sculpting fundamentals, cast sculpture techniques, and relief work while monitoring evening figurative sculpture classes.

NYC Mesh Community Internet , Outreach Coordinator 2024 - Present

Designed branding materials, flyers, and social media content to promote community network initiatives and increase public engagement. Led cross-functional projects while conducting UI/UX research to improve user experience and build strategic partnerships with community organizations.

Studio Assistant Heather Personett (2021-2025), Anthony Adcock (2018)

Assisted established artists with sculpture production from fabrication through installation, including mold-making, casting, painting, sanding, and finishing work. Managed material procurement, studio organization, client communications, on-site coordination, crate building, and artwork delivery logistics.

Produced comprehensive artist research documents for curators and organized panel discussions while providing multimedia and audio/visual support for public programming. Coordinated communications between curators, artists, and assistants while managing visitor services, digital event promotion, and online registration systems.

Public Programs & Exhibition Assistant, Documenta 14

2017

Worked under curator Paul Preciado in public programs while providing exhibition support to artists including Irena Haiduk, Otobong Nkanga, and Ibrahim Mahama. Managed installation work, artist liaison responsibilities, hospitality logistics, and technical assistance for public programming while handling visitor services, digital outreach, and communications between curators, artists, and assistants.

Artwork

- Crystal LaBeija Monument - Museum of the City of New York, 2025
- Marsha P. Johnson Monument - Christopher Park | The Center, 2021
- "Resting Angel" - Eleventh Hour Art Gallery, 2024
- A Great Big World "This is Magic" Music Video (paintings, sculptures), 2019
- "Antonio" - Grand Central Atelier, New York, 2020

Grants

- Creative Equations Fund Grant, Brooklyn Arts Council, 2022
- Brooklyn Arts Fund Grant, Brooklyn Arts Council, 2021
- Notable Sculpture, Grand Central Atelier, 2022, 2020
- Outstanding Drawing, Grand Central Atelier, 2020
- Caldera Fellowship, Oregon Institute for Creative Research, 2017

Presentations

- "The Right to Feel Safe" - UP Projects Talk on Public Artwork, 2025
- "A Lecture to Students on LGBTQ+ History, Public Monuments, and Sculpting" - Hunter College Master Talk, 2022

Technical Skills

Sculpting, Fabrication, Mold Making & Casting

Figurative sculpture (from small sketches and 1/4 life size to 10-15% above life size), portrait and bust creation, large-scale sculpture production, technical drafting, armature building, scaling artwork with measuring tools like calipers and manual work, silicone mold making, plaster waste molds, plaster casting, wax casting, mounting sculpture onto stone, stone purchasing and preparation

Tools & Equipment

Hand chisels, rasps and files, Dremel rotary tools, power sanders, table saws, angle grinder, calipers, diamond bits for drilling

Finishing & Production

Sanding and finishing, faux finishes and patinas, plaster painting, crate building