

JUAN ALONSO-RODRIGUEZ

Statement

The act of creating, particularly painting, is a necessary form of meditation for me. It is the serenity I long for in life.

My work is an on-going exploration of abstraction based on forms both found in nature and those conceived by human ingenuity.

Memories of sights and sounds of my Caribbean origins always play an integral part in my creativity. I am influenced by the organized balance, pattern and symmetry found in nature as well as that of architecture that lives in harmony with the natural world. When the Covid-19 pandemic began, I had a feeling we would be sheltered for quite a while, though I didn't realize just for how long. In order to re-set how I thought of this new reality, I decided to treat it as an extended Art Residency: a time to create without distractions. This mental readjustment has made it possible for me to embrace the extra time in the studio and not think of it as an inconvenience. It made me realize just how much of an introvert I truly am.



Bio

Cuban-born Juan Alonso-Rodríguez is a self-taught artist whose transition from music to visual arts coincided with his move to Seattle in 1982. Since then, his work has been exhibited throughout the US, Canada and Latin America and is included in the permanent collections of the Tacoma Art Museum, Portland Art Museum, Museum of Northwest Art, Microsoft, Swedish & Harborview Hospitals, and General Mills. He has created public works for Century Link Field, Seattle/Tacoma International Airport, King County Housing Authority, Epiphany School, Sound Transit's Light Rail system, Chief Sealth High School and Renton Technical College, both commissioned by Washington State Arts Commission. His awards include a 2010 Seattle Mayor's Arts Award, The Neddy Fellowship, PONCHO Artist of the Year, two Artist Trust GAPs, three 4Culture Individual Artist Grants, ArtSpace's 2016 Dejunius Hughes Award for Activism, the 2017 Conductive Garboil Grant, a 2019 Artist Trust Fellowship and a 2019 Washington State Governor's Arts Award: Individual. Juan is a former Seattle Arts Commissioner and served four years on the Public Art Advisory Committee for the City of Seattle.