



## Alicia Kirsten Cosnahan

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### Bio

I am a Washington, DC artist who paints the nickname, DECOY. I was born near Brussels, Belgium, and spent most of my childhood in the villages of Europe. My art focuses on figures not the figures alone, but their intersection with color and space. I am especially passionate about recording my immediate surroundings with my art. The art concentrates on the situations, people and places that form daily interaction. The images chosen are the ones that leave a lasting impression, whether they are born from social encounters at work or at play. The resulting work is generally a distorted reflection of the original idea. The idea is not to copy life, but to express my memory of it.

I received a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Berry College in Rome, GA in 2001. I also studied at Studio Arts Centers International and Fuji Studios both of Florence, Italy.

In the past few years my work could be seen on such things as, Modern Luxury, Capitol File, Worn Magazine, BBC world News, The Washington Post and more.

### Education

|   |      |
|---|------|
| High School: Patch American High School, Stuttgart, Germany     | 1997 |
| College: Berry College, Mount Berry, GA                         |      |
| Bachelor of Art, Major: Art History, Minor: English             | 2001 |
| Studio Art Centers International, Florence, Italy, one semester | 2000 |
| Fuji Studios, Florence Italy, one semester                      | 2000 |

### Recognitions

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 04/2000-05/2001 | National Creative Society, Berry College   |
| 05/1999-12/2000 | Dean's List, Berry College, SACI, Florence, Italy                                    |
| 08/1997-05/2001 | HOPE Academic College Scholarship, Berry College                                     |
| 05/1997         | Commander-in-Chief's Top Forty Teens of Europe, Germany                              |
|                 | Top 40 teens out of 20,000 were recognized for outstanding service to the community. |

## Projects

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 05/2011-09/2011   | National Mural Tour: DC, Boston, Chicago, Oakland, Ann Arbor   |
| 11/2011           | Organizer: Open Walls; DC Mural Fest   |
| 10/2011           | Organizer: Monster Mash II – Halloween Mural Jam in Washington ,DC   |
| 10/2010-present   | Director and Lesson Developer: Perry School Arts Program, Washington, DC   |
| 10/2010-present   | Creator and Instructor: MeeMoo's Art Happy, art classes for 2-5 year old children, Washington, DC  |
| 12/2010 – present | Instructor: Art education workshop for young inmates in Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center, Rockville, MD   |
| 09/2010           | Instructor: Art workshops for young girls in Waxter Correctional Facility, Laurel, MD  |
| 09/2010           | Artist: Sousa Mural, Washington, DC  |
| 01/2010-present   | Site Director and Instructor, Albus Cavus Classrooms, Washington, DC   |
| 04/2010-present   | Artist: Give Me a Vote! Educational public art project, Washington, DC   |
| 10/2009           | Artist: Seasons in the City Mural, Washington DC   |
| 07/2009-09/2009   | Artist and Instructor: From Edgewood to the Edge of the World Mural, the largest mural in DC created with 45 participants from Summer Youth Employment Program   |
| 07/2009-present   | Director for Education, Albus Cavus, Washington, DC  |
| 07/2008           | Artist: Illustrator, Art Designer for Project Celebrate Urban Birds, Cornell University Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY.  |
| 12/06- 06/2007    | Art Teacher: Abrakadoodle Art Program<br>Assumed responsibility for the preparation and presentation of art lessons in the MD, VA and DC area. Supervised new teachers and assisted them in adjusting to the Abrakadoodle program. |
| 01/2004-Present   | Artist: Illustrator, Designer, and Director, Decoyink, Washington, DC, Designs and produces art through various creative endeavors (clothing, illustrations, and traditional medium).  |
| 11/2006           | Artist: Artwork used for the book jacket of The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears by Dinaw Mengestu, Penguin Putnam Inc., 100 Notable Books of 2007, New York Times.  |
| 07/2006           | Artist: Catalyst Theater Company, Washington, DC, Created illustrations for promotional posters and other advertisement, Three plays (The Flu Season, We Are Not These Hands, and The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui).               |
| 08/2005-01/07     | Customer Service: Latin Concepts, Washington, DC   |

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 07/2004 to 07/05 | Art Editor: The Quarterly Staple, Published online Literary/Art Journal, Researched and selected artist to be featured in each issue.   |
| 03/2004 to 04/05 | Museum Assistant: The National Gallery of Art, Assisted the daily work structure of the gallery, greeted and provided services to enhance the visitor's opportunity to view the National Gallery. |
| 03/2003 to 03/04 | Gallery Representative: The National Building Museum, Assisted all visitors in explanations of the presentations of the gallery, maintained order and preservation of exhibitions.                |
| 07/2003 to 08/03 | Incubator Curator: Selected as the first curator for a MAP (Maryland Art program to highlight young curators).  |
| 08/2002 to 03/03 | Museum Assistant: The Phillips Collection   |
| 04/2001 to 05/01 | Guest Artist: "Southbound: Back to Basics" in Belfast, Northern Ireland   |
| 05/2001          | Art Curator: Rome, GA, Developed theme for Martha Berry Mountain Quilt Show   |
| 01/2001-05/01    | Art Curator: Council for the Arts, Rome, GA   |
| 09/1997 to 05/01 | Student Employee, Berry College, Mount Berry, GA  |

## Exhibitions

1/2012 Art @ Work, Smith Center for Healing and the Arts, Washington, DC  
 10/2011 But Is It Art Fair, Washington, DC  
 4/2011 G40, Artwhino, Washington, DC  
 3/2011 The Fridge Five, The Fridge DC, Washington, DC  
 10/2010 Re:Form School, New York, NY  
 7/2010 DECOYink, Solo Show in The Fridge Gallery, Washington, DC  
 5/2010 Katzen Arts Center, American University, Washington DC  
 3/2010 Manifest Equality, Los Angeles, CA  
 9/2009 Memento Mori, Solo Show in The Fridge Gallery, Washington, DC  
 3/2009 Murals for Zora exhibit, Washington, DC  
 1/2009 Manifest Hope exhibit, Washington, DC  
 1/2009 LIFE GUARD exhibit, Washington, DC  
 5/2008 Get A Room, Luna, Washington, DC  
 4/2008 DC51 ongoing Collective, Capitol Hemp, Washington, DC  
 3/2008 So Fine, Busboys and Poets, Washington, DC  
 2/2008 DC Green HEART Exhibition, Lofts 11, Washington, DC  
 10/2007 Group exhibitions- permanent collaborator/ ART WHINO.  
 11/2007 The 4th Annual Transformer Auction and Benefit Party  
 8/2007 Artscape, Baltimore, MD  
 07/2007 DECOY solo exhibition / The Most Important Place  
 12/2006 Group exhibition / The Space  
 12/2006 Group exhibition / Post Secret, Illustrations published in Post Secret: Extraordinary Confessions from Ordinary Lives, by Frank Warren, 2006.  
 09/2006 DECOY solo exhibition / Sincronicidad  
 07/2006 DECOY solo exhibition / This is How We Roll  
 09/2005 Group exhibition / Adam Morgan Graffiti House Project  
 05/2005 Group exhibition / Beautiful

## Volunteer Activities

Since 5/2011 Bread for the City, Washington, DC  
Since 11/2008 Albus Cavus, Washington, DC  
Since 5/2008 Words, Beats and Life, Washington, DC  
6/2008 Girls Rock DC, Art/Advertisement, Washington, DC  
12/2007 "Say Whaaat" exhibition: proceeds for charity to benefit the Capitol Area Food Bank

## Recent Press

**Teens Capture Birds of Maryland** by Claire Schwadron (Takoma Voice March 2011)  
**Public Eye** by Brendan L. Smith (DC Magazine December 2010)  
**Insider's Guide to Buying Art for Less** by Christine Findlay (Southern Living Magazine Sept 2010)  
**New Sousa Mural Trumpets a Hill Welcome** by Rachael Bade (Roll Call, September 15, 2010)  
**Moustache Mural Honors John Philip Sousa** by Philip Hutinet (East City Art, September 10, 2010)  
**Pressing the Sculptural Flesh to Give Me a Vote** by Joshua Yospy (Worn Magazine Blog, August 21, 2010)  
**Designs on The Skin** (DC Guide, August 1, 2010)  
**DECOY INK at The Fridge** by Joshua Yospy (Worn Magazine Blog, July 12, 2010)  
**Cesar Maxit, Graham Boyle, other artists inspired by community activism** by David Montgomery (The Washington Post, Sunday, June 20, 2010)  
**American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center** by Joshua Yospy (Worn Magazine Blog, May 10, 2010)  
**Murals in Washington DC** by Philippa Thomas (BBC World News, April 2010)  
**Up Close with DECOY**, interview profile (Worn Magazine, April 7, 2010)  
**It's Friday Night** by Joshua Yospy (Worn Magazine Blog, April 3, 2010)  
**'G40: The Summit' showcases worldwide art in Crystal City** by Christie Goodman (The Wash Post, March 4, 2010)  
**Legal graffiti artists create murals around D.C.** by Ann Cameron Siegal (The Wash Post January 15, 2010)  
**Hungry for a New Art Space? Check the Fridge.** by Lavanya Ramanathan (The Washington Post, September 18, 2009)  
**Decoy** by Maura Judkis (Washington City Paper, September 18, 2009)  
**Let Us Spray** by Dan Zak (The Washington Post, August 23, 2009)  
**City, Residents Differ On Likability of NE Mural** by the News Team (ABC7 News Channel 8 August 25, 2009)  
**Project Brings Graffiti Art Out of the Dark** by Martin Ricard (The Washington Post August 20, 2009)  
**More Than 100 to Paint Mural in D.C. Neighborhood** (ABC7 WJLA August 15, 2009)  
**Youth to tell Edgewood, DC story through mural** by Kristopher Owens (The District Chronicles July 26, 2009)  
**Edgewood Mural** by David Furst (Metro Connection on WAMU July 17, 2009)  
**Art and Fashion at Tee Party** by Susanna Michelsen (Swedish Scene, December 13, 2008)  
**When images make noise** by Ben Doak (The GW Hatchet, November 13, 2008)  
**Artist: Decoy**, profile (Current TV, September 2, 2008)