



ISRAEL SOLOMON

Visual Artist and Art Educator

CONTACT

PHONE:
765-461-5927

EMAIL:
israelsolomonart@yahoo.com

Israel Solomon is a visual artist and art educator who works mainly within the Indianapolis area. He currently teaches visual arts education at KIPP Indy College Prep Middle School to students grade six through eight. Israel is completing his second year as a visual arts instructor, where he has created a unique curriculum, which focuses on the foundations of visual art such as drawing and painting technique. Israel also ensures that his students are exposed to a wide variety of artists and forms of expression, including music, dance, and design. Israel finds time to practice his craft on a daily basis, whether it be sketching, demonstrating to students or painting.

Israel has been drawing and creating art since his youth, learning from his older brother and father. Israel's favorite cartoons were a major influence in drawing as a child. Israel would copy his favorite characters on paper and watch his favorite art show "Secret City" on PBS. An artist named "Commander Mark" who demonstrated a variety of techniques that assisted Israel in developing his drawing techniques hosted this show. Israel attended Anderson High School in Anderson, Indiana where he took a variety of art classes. Graduating in 1998, Israel decided that he would continue to explore art at the collegiate level.

Israel attended Ball State University where he studied Visual Arts Education. He experimented with a range of artistic medium including oil painting, printmaking, and ceramics, with a focus in drawing. During Israel's fourth year of attendance, he was nominated for student of the year in the visual arts department. Israel also won an award for best drawing that same year with a colored pencil drawing that was heavily influenced by hip-hop, graffiti, video game, and comic book imagery. Israel completed his student teaching at Peru High School in Peru, Indiana and graduated in the spring of 2003.

After graduation, Israel stepped away from the arts and instead began working at the BMV for almost ten years, and then Allstate as a claims adjuster. During this time, Israel continued drawing and creating computer graphic images. Israel felt it was time for a change and decided to rededicate his professional life to art. Searching for a way to re-enter education, Israel found a program called Indianapolis Teaching Fellows that transitioned non-educators into the classroom. He encountered KIPP Indy College Prep Middle school who was looking for an art teacher, and it was a perfect fit. Israel is completing his second year an art teacher at KIPP. He is also completing his final semester at Marian University where he will obtain a Master's Degree in Visual Art Education. Israel's goal is to instruct at the collegiate level in the future.

Over the past five years, Israel has also heavily focused on further developing as an artist and painter. He has exhibited in a wide variety of locations across Indianapolis including The Art Bank Gallery, Gallery 924, The Indianapolis Artsgarden, The Indiana Black Expo, and recently at The Garfield Parks Art Center. Israel will be one of fifteen featured visual artists participating in the Indianapolis Zoo Paint Out in April 2019. Israel has also created murals at KIPP Indy Middle School, and created several independent coloring books. As an artist and educator, Israel will continue to develop by displaying his work and exposing others to his knowledge and experiences.