

# Kristen Palana

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Kristen Palana is an American artist based in Rome whose practice spans drawing, animation, and immersive, participatory installation. Her work integrates sacred geometry, cross-cultural symbolism, and projection-based media to create large-scale public experiences centered on connection, reflection, and collective authorship. She has collaborated with international organizations including the United Nations and has taught across four continents.

## Selected Awards & Residencies

- 2025** Winner, Art100 International Award 2025. Visual Artists Association. London, UK.
- 2025** Winner, Artist of the Year 2025. Arts to Hearts Project. USA.
- 2025** Honorable Mention, Goddess (drawing), The Spiritual Art Awards. 2D Mixed Media Category. USA.
- 2025** Artist Residency, Mudhouse Residency, Crete, Greece.
- 2025** First Place, Abundant Harvest: Food Security Meditation (drawing), NOURISH! Cultivating Hope, Feeding Humanity International Art Exhibition and Global Contest. Art Impact International. Washington D.C. USA.
- 2025** Masterful Minds Award, Circle Foundation for the Arts, Artist of the Year Award. USA.
- 2024** Honorable Mention, Unity: Earth Dance Meditation (drawing), Teravarna International Art Competition, Flowers. 2D Mixed Media Category. USA.
- 2023** Winner, Mother (drawing), The Spiritual Art Awards. 2D Mixed Media. USA.
- 2023** First Place, Abundant Harvest: Food Security Meditation (drawing), Artful Delights Competition and Exhibit, Ten Moir Gallery, Kansas City, MO. USA.
- 2023** Finalist, 6th Annual Women Artists International Exhibition, Fusion Art. Online.
- 2023** Artist Residency, Driftwood Studios, Sunrise-On-Sea, South Africa.
- 2022** Team Award, Certificate of excellence for high performance in communications, United Nations Population Fund, East and Southern Africa Region.
- 2018** Grant, Beyond Lucky, Awesome Without Borders, Harnisch Foundation, NYC. NY. USA.
- 2018** Artist Residency, TAKT Berlin, Berlin, Germany.
- 2015** Jury Award, This Too Shall Pass, Italy International Film Festival, Milan, Italy.
- 2014** Best Animated Short, This Too Shall Pass, Cannes Short Film Festival, Cannes, France.
- 2014** Best Foreign Animated Short, This Too Shall Pass, International Foreign Film Festival, Hollywood, CA. USA.
- 2012** Best Animated Film, Veggie Propaganda, Southeast New England Film, Music and Arts Festival, Providence, RI. USA.
- 2012** Award of Merit, Veggie Propaganda, The Indie Fest, USA.
- 2009** Best Animated Short, Larry & Roz, Sunscreen International Film Festival, FL. USA.
- 2009** Top 3 Award in Animation and New Media, Larry and Roz, Reel HeART International Film Festival, Toronto, Canada.
- 2009** Best Animated Film, Larry & Roz, Southeast New England Film, Music and Arts Festival, Providence, RI. USA.
- 2009** Best Animated Short, Larry & Roz, DIY Film Festival, Hollywood, CA. USA.
- 2007** First Place, End Child Hunger, UN World Food Programme's Fight Hunger Viral Video Competition, Rome, Italy.

- 2006** Director's Citation Award, Lucky, The Black Maria Film Festival, USA.
- 2004** Finalist, Yellow Ribbons, Moveon.org Bush in 30 Seconds Political Ad Competition, USA.
- 2002** Juror's Award for Animation, Five O'clock Shadows, 36th New York Expo of Short Film and Video, New York, NY. USA.
- 2002** Altman Foundation Award, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY. USA.
- 2002** Pratt Circle Award, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY. USA.
- 1994** Top 10 Finalist, National Talent Search, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY. USA.
- 1994** Top 10 Finalist, National Talent Search, Maryland Institute, Baltimore, MD. USA.

### **Selected Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions**

- 2025** Solo Exhibition, The Art of Reset. Il Matroneo, TH Carpaccio Palace Hotel, Rome, Italy. (curated by Francesca Paradiso Casale)
- 2022** Solo Exhibition, Here and There: Sacred Objects, Spirit Animals, and Symbols for Manifesting, Narrows Center for the Arts, Fall River, MA. USA. (curated by Deborah Charlebois)
- 2021** Two-person Exhibition, Left Brain, Right Brain, ArtgateVR district in the Metaverse. Online. (with American textile artist, Stacey Piwinski)
- 1999** Solo Exhibition, The Tube Series, Envy Gallery, Temple Bar, Dublin, Ireland.
- 1999** Solo Exhibition, The Tube Series, Montagues, Dublin, Ireland.
- 1998** Two-person Exhibition, Aftermath, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, MA. USA. (with American sculptor, Danielle Doucet)

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2025** Zodiac: Mysterious Power of the Creative, Medici Museum of Art & Feuerman Foundation, Warren, OH. USA. (curated by Katelyn Amendolara-Russo)
- 2025** June 2025 Exhibition, Mudhouse Residency, Crete, Greece.
- 2023** Three-person Exhibition, Remedy: How We Heal, Narrows Center for the Arts, Fall River, MA. USA. (curated by Deborah Charlebois)
- 2021** Billboard Group Exhibition and NFT, ExpoMetro 6th Edition, New York, NY. USA.
- 2018** Transformation 2018, Re:Artiste, NYC, NY. USA.
- 2018** Artist and Location 2018, Czong Institute for Contemporary Art, CICA Museum, Gimpo, South Korea.
- 2018** Something Lost, Tapir Gallery, Berlin, Germany.
- 2011** Rise of the Creative Economy, Society for Animation Studies Conference, Athens, Greece.
- 2002** Sugar and Spice, CGIM Gallery, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY. USA.
- 2000** Visiting, Postartum, The Vault, Long Beach, CA. USA.
- 1999** Provincetown Art Association Show, Provincetown Art Association, Provincetown, MA. USA.
- 1998** Summer Show, Gallery 349, Provincetown, MA. USA.
- 1998** Member's Exhibition, Wellfleet Art Co-op, Wellfleet, MA. USA.

### **Selected Online Group Exhibitions and Features**

- 2024** The Healing Power of Art Inspired by Nature. The Healing Power of ART & ARTISTS Exhibition. (curated by Renee Phillips)
- 2023** What Do We Know? International Spiritual Artists Art Exhibition. (curated by Karen van Hoey Smith)
- 2021** Raise Three Fingers, Birmanie, Group Exhibition and Awareness Campaign.

**2007** Food Aid: Reducing World Hunger, Economic Perspectives, September 2007, U.S. State Department E-Journal.

**2007** End Child Hunger, Multimedia Animation Viral Video, WFP. Official Campaign.

**2002** Art on the Net 2002, Machida City Museum of Graphic Arts, Tokyo, Japan.

### **Selected Film Festival Screenings**

Animated films screened in over 75 international festivals. Selected highlights:

**2016** This Too Shall Pass, Brood Film Fest, Exeter, UK.

**2015** This Too Shall Pass, Italy International Film Festival, Milan, Italy.

**2015** This Too Shall Pass, ReelHeART International Film and Screenplay Festival, Toronto, Canada.

**2015** This Too Shall Pass, People of Passion International Film Festival, Melbourne, Australia.

**2014** This Too Shall Pass, Cannes Short Film Festival, Cannes, France.

**2014** This Too Shall Pass, International Family Film Festival, Hollywood, CA. USA.

**2012** Veggie Propaganda, 15th CinemAmbiente Environmental Film Festival, Turin, Italy.

**2012** Veggie Propaganda, The Green Film Festival in Seoul, Seoul, South Korea.

**2012** Veggie Propaganda, World Music and Independent Film Festival, Washington, DC. USA.

**2010** Larry and Roz, London Independent Film Festival, London, UK.

**2010** Larry and Roz, Berlin Independent Film Festival, Berlin, Germany.

**2009** Larry and Roz, Chicago International Children's Film Festival, Chicago, IL. USA.

**2009** Larry and Roz, New Beijing International Movie Week, Beijing, China.

**2009** Larry and Roz, Washington DC Independent Film Festival, Washington DC. USA.

**2008** Larry and Roz, Radar Hamburg International Independent Film Festival, Hamburg, Germany.

### **Selected Teaching Experience**

#### **Independent Consultant (2017–present)**

Clients include UNICEF, The British High Commission, Matrius, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, WFP, GIZ, UNDP, The Public Relations Society of Malawi, UNFPA, The American University of Rome, and The Australian High Commission. Craft art, design, and communication programs catering to diverse audiences. Since 2014, reached 100K+ online students from 191 countries.

#### **Associate Professor of Digital Media, American University of Rome (2006–2016; 2024–present)**

Tenured in 2009. Director of Film & Digital Media Program, 2013–2016.

#### **Associate Professor of Digital Media, American University of Myanmar, Yangon (2016–2018)**

#### **Assistant Professor of Digital Media, William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ (2002–2006)**

#### **Visiting Professor, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY (2000–2002)**

### **Selected Workshops & Presentations**

**2024** Intensive Workshop, Women in Leadership: Communication Training & Launch Event. Australia Awards, Australian High Commission, Lilongwe, Malawi.

**2021** Lecture/Presentation, Happiness Boosting with Color Psychology. Gross Global Happiness Summit, University for Peace, Costa Rica/Online.

**2018** Artist Talk, Practically Impractical, Tapir Gallery, Berlin, Germany.

**2015** Masterclass, Animation and Multimedia Storytelling, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**2014** Lecture, Mother of Dragons: Using Animation and Comics as Tools to Document Early Parenthood. Society for Animation Studies, Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film, Germany.

### **Education**

**2015** Diploma in Social Innovation, UPEACE Centre for Executive Education, Costa Rica.

**2002** MFA in Computer Graphics and Interactive Media, graduation with distinction, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY. USA.

**1998** BFA in Painting, graduation with distinction, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, MA. USA.