**Ryan Mark Pagett**

**Artist/Art Historian/Curator/Educator**

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**Education**

May 2023Master of Arts, Art History and Visual Culture, Lindenwood University, St. Charles MO.

May 2020 Bachelor of Science, Art Education, Columbus State University, Columbus GA.

**Grants, Honors and Awards**

2025 Caring for Indigenous Collections Institute Scholarship Award

Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums (ATALM)

* Covers registration fees for ATALM 2025 conference, October 7–9, 2025, in Cherokee, North Carolina.
* A preconference workshop from the Collections Care Institute Program.
* Four nights lodging at the Conference hotel.

2025 Groundwork Grants I, California Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Projects

Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Ocotillo, CA.

* Total amount requested and received: $18,123.32
* With the funds received, we enhanced the emergency readiness and protection of our collections through the installation of fire-resistant steel doors for our storage collection area, door sweeps for all exterior doors in the museum facility to block dust and pests, flood barriers and absorbent socks for water mitigation, and updated environmental monitoring and alert systems for the museum gallery and storage spaces.
* We also consulted with Elizabeth Salmon, Preventive Conservator from Balboa Art Conservation Center, for expert guidance on how to preserve our collections from future seismic activity, a regular occurrence in southern California.

2025 Artist, Champion Ribbon and 1st Place Blue Ribbon, Painted jacket, "I AM A DROP IN THIS OCEAN OF NOISE," Open Adult- Arts & Crafts, Fabric Painting, Imperial Valley Mid-Winter Fair and Fiesta Competitive Exhibits, Imperial, CA.

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2025 Artist, 1st Place Blue Ribbon, Cyanotype Tapestry, "fouquieria splendens in hieme," Open Adult-Arts & Crafts, Wall Hangings, Imperial Valley Mid-Winter Fair and Fiesta Competitive Exhibits, Imperial, CA.

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2025 Artist, 1st Place Blue Ribbon, Cyanotype Jumpsuit, "fouquieria splendens floret," Open Adult-Arts & Crafts, Decorated Garments, Imperial Valley Mid-Winter Fair and Fiesta Competitive Exhibits, Imperial, CA.

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2025 Artist, 1st Place Blue Ribbon, "Pink Lady," Open Adult-Fine Arts, Portrait/Figures (Acrylic), Imperial Valley Mid-Winter Fair and Fiesta Competitive Exhibits, Imperial, CA.

2025 Artist, 1st Place Blue Ribbon, "At Rest (metroman takes a break)," Open Adult-Photography, Color-Creative/Experimental, Imperial Valley Mid-Winter Fair and Fiesta Competitive Exhibits, Imperial, CA.

2025         Artist, 2nd Place Red Ribbon, "Chromatic Elevation," Open Adult-Photography, Color-Creative/Experimental, Imperial Valley Mid-

Winter Fair and Fiesta Competitive Exhibits, Imperial, CA.

2024 Curator, Certificate of Congressional Recognition, CA. Congressional District 25, *Native Voices | Native Truths: A Contemporary Experience*, Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Ocotillo, CA.

**Art Exhibitions**

2025 Online Group Exhibition, *Serenity*, organized by Art Fluent.

2025 Competitive Exhibits, Imperial Valley Mid-Winter Fair and Fiesta, Imperial, CA.

2025 Group Exhibit, *Black and White 2025*, Carmen Durazo Cultural Arts Center, Calexico, CA.

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2024 Group Exhibition, *Intercepting Nature*, Gateway Gallery, Ocotillo, CA.

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2024 Group Exhibition and Fashion Show, *The New West*, Gateway Gallery, Ocotillo, CA.

2023 Group Exhibition, *Small Works Exhibit 2023*, JAG Gallery, Key West FL.

2023 Group Exhibition and fundraiser, *Palate, Palette & Pallet*, Imperial Valley Food Bank, Imperial CA.

2023Online Group Exhibition, *Colorium*, organized by Gallerium, powered by Biafarian.

2019Student artist and curator, Group Exhibition, *Ivoire Fashion Showcase* at *Zenith* Senior Thesis Exhibition, Illges and Bay Gallery, Columbus State University, Columbus GA.

2019Student artist and curator, Solo Exhibition, Junior Thesis Exhibition, Bay Gallery, Columbus State University, Columbus GA.

**Collaborative Projects**

2024 Co-created a painted and jewelry enhanced denim jacket with Imperial Valley artist Sheryl Nash.

2017 Student artist alongside Chicago based artist Gabriel Villa, large-scale mural painting (85 ft.), Davidson Student Center, Columbus State University, Columbus GA.

**Commissions**

2025 Private Art Commission, *desert blooms in blue*, denim overalls accented with cyanotype prints

2023 Corporate Art Commission, *Diners and Dives*, large-scale mural painting (23 x 9.5 ft. mural), Got 2b Rollin’ Skating Rink, Buckhead, GA.

2022 Private Art Commission, series of 3 acrylic pours (12 x 12 in.)

2021 Private Art Commission, *Maggie and Bags*, acrylic painting Pet portraits (10 x 20 in.)

2021 Private Art Commission, *Peppers and Eva*, acrylic painting Dog portraits (12 x 16 in.)

2021 Private Art Commission, *Jerry and Larry*, acrylic painting Dog portraits (12 x 16 in.)

2021 Private Art Commission, acrylic pour (12 x 12 in.)

**Curatorial Experience**

**August 2023 – Present**

**Head Curator, Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Ocotillo, CA.**

2025 Competition judge, Imperial County Arts Festival, El Centro, CA. May 2025.

2025 Curator, *Desert Fables: Illustrations from “The Neotenic Queen,”* inspired by *The Neotenic Queen: Tales of Sex and Survival in the Sonoran Desert*, *Writing and Illustrations of Alejandro Canelos, and Rachel Ivanyi*, Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Ocotillo, CA. In progress, January-May of 2025.

2024 Curator, *Borderland Expressions: Narrative Change Through Arts in Imperial Valley*, Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Ocotillo, CA. October-December of 2024.

2024 Curator, *Imperial Valley Desert Museum: Rocky Start to Firm Foundation*, Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Ocotillo, CA. Summer of 2024.

2024 Project Support Staff, *Imperial Valley Decolonization Movement* grant project, mural designed and created by 4 local indigenous artists of the Southern/Northern Baja California area, to encompasses the front walls of the Imperial Valley Desert Museum. This mural showcases the history and culture of the Kumeyaay indigenous people, a tribe seen throughout Southern/Northern Baja California, funded by *Far South/Border North*. Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Ocotillo, CA. September 2024 - Present.

2024 Competition judge, *Imperial County Arts Festival,* El Centro, CA. May 2024.

2024 Competition judge, *Congressional Art Competition* (District CA-25, Imperial Valley), April 2024.

2024 Curator, *Native Voices | Native Truths: A Contemporary Experience*, Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Ocotillo, CA. January-April 2024.

**June 2022 – July 2023**

**Curatorial, Archival Assistant, Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, Buckhead, GA.**

2023 Designer, *Steffen Thomas: Rock & Chisel* Digital Catalog, Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, Buckhead, GA. Currently found on the museum website.

2023 Curator, *Steffen Thomas: Rock & Chisel* (selected works from the recently created *Steffen Thomas: Rock & Chisel* documentary film), Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, Buckhead, GA.

2023 Curator, *Richard and Marjorie Lowrance Collection Tableau* (21 works), Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, Buckhead, GA. Currently on display.

2022-23 Lead archiver, Richard and Marjorie Lowrance Personal Steffen Thomas Collection (approximately 340 works), from Atlanta, GA. to Buckhead, GA.

2023 Designer, *Hinterglasmalerei: Reverse Paintings of Steffen Thomas* Digital Catalog, Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, Buckhead, GA. Currently found on the museum website.

2023 Designer, *Hinterglasmalerei: Reverse Paintings of Steffen Thomas* 8-page fold zine, Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, Buckhead, GA.

2023 Co-Curator (co-organized with M. Adams), *Hinterglasmalerei: Reverse Paintings of Steffen Thomas*,Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, Buckhead, GA.

2023 Co-Curator (co-organized with M. Adams, A. Vuley & L. Conner), *Mentor and Protege: Steffen Thomas & Jack Stewart*, Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, Buckhead GA.

2022 Co-Curator (co-organized with M. Adams), *Master Prints: Steffen Thomas and Chloe Alexander*, Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, Buckhead GA.

2022 Co-organizer (co-organized with M. Adams, A. Vuley & L. Conner), 2022 Founder’s Day Celebration, Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, Buckhead GA.

2021 Lead educator, *Steffen Thomas’s Animal Kingdom* Family Workshop, Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, Buckhead GA

**Teaching Experience**

July 2025- Present Studio Art Teacher, Unwind and Design Creative Studios, El Centro CA.

July 2021- May 2022 Art Teacher for 4-8th graders, Anita White Carson Middle School, Greensboro GA.

July 2020- May 2021 Art Teacher for 6-8th graders, Indian Creek Middle School, Covington GA.

Spring of 2020Art Student Teacher for 9-12th graders, Hardaway High School, Columbus GA.

**Internships**

2022 Exhibit Installation Assistant, *Dinosaurs: Land of Fire and Ice*, UpCountry History Museum, Greenville, SC.

2019 FallMuseum Internship within the Department of Education, The Columbus Museum, Columbus GA.

2019 SummerIntern Assistant and Curator/Archival Researcher, The Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, Buckhead GA.

2019 Spring Museum Internship within the Department of Education, The Columbus Museum, Columbus GA.

**Publications**

**August 2023 – Present**

**Head Curator, Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Ocotillo, CA.**

2025*The Art of Adaptation: How Creativity Helps Shape the Museum Experience,* for the *Imperial Valley Press*, El Centro, CA. July 2025.

2025 *An Introduction to Artifact Conservation at the Imperial Valley Desert Museum* for the *Imperial Valley Press*, El Centro, CA.

May 2025.

2025 *What is IVDM? A Museum, Research Center, Community Hub, and So Much More* for the *Imperial Valley Press*, El Centro, CA. February 2025.

2024 *Borderland Expressions: Narrative Change Through Arts in Imperial Valley* for the *Imperial Valley Press*, El Centro, CA. September 2024. [*Imperial Valley Desert Museum: Rocky Start to Firm Foundations - An Exhibition 50 Years in the Making*](https://www.ivpressonline.com/life/desertmuseum/land-of-extremes-imperial-valley-desert-museum-rocky-start-to-firm-foundations---an/article_6a3e8a62-37ec-11ef-b57c-b38ab4808e9b.html) for the *Imperial Valley Press*, El Centro, CA. July 2024.

2024 Co-Writer(co-written with N. Beltran) *Curation Station* article *Rockin’ Out with Ryan & Nallely* for *The Cactus Chronicle*, Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Ocotillo, CA. June-September 2024.

2024 *Artist Spotlights #1-4 from Native Voices | Native Truths: A Contemporary Experience* for *The Cactus Chronicle*, Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Ocotillo, CA. January-April 2024.

2024 *IVDM Pivoting into the New Year with* *Native Voices | Native Truths: A Contemporary Experience*! for the *Imperial Valley Press*, El Centro, CA. February 2024.

2023 Co-Writer (co-written with K. O’Lear), *Native Voices* **|** *Native Truths: A Contemporary Experience* article, for the *Imperial Valley Press*, El Centro, CA. December 2023.

2023 *Archaeological Analysis Adventures with Dr. Gregory Haynes* for *The Cactus Chronicle*, Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Ocotillo, CA. December 2023.

2023 *Celebrating the Holidays, An Indigenous Perspective*, for the *Imperial Valley Press*, El Centro, CA. November 2023.

2023 *Ocotillo Rocks!* for *The Cactus Chronicle*, Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Ocotillo, CA. November 2023.

2023 *The History of La Loteria* for *The Cactus Chronicle*, Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Ocotillo, CA. October 2023.

2023 *Traditional Craft Day* for *The Cactus Chronicle*, Imperial Valley Desert Museum, Ocotillo, CA. September 2023.

**Training and Certifications**

2025 Professional Development Certificate (Rematriation | Repatriation), Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums.

2025 California Collections Care Training Cohort, Balboa Art Conservation Center, San Diego CA.

Present - January 2026

* A large-scale initiative to bring collections care capacity building to institutions throughout the state of California via accessible virtual lectures and in-person, hands-on workshops. Made up of 15 applicants.

2023 Sexual Harassment and Abusive Conduct Prevention Training, *California Department of Fair Employment and Housing*

October 2023.

2023 Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED Training, September 2023 - September 2025.

2022 Gary Alderman (Classroom Management) Training, Northeast GA RESA, February 2022.

**References Available Upon Request**