

FRANC PALAIA is a versatile multi-media artist. He is a painter, photographer, muralist, sculptor, lamp designer, Independent curator, gallerist, book artist, educator, TV producer & host . His encyclopedic resume includes over 300 group exhibitions and over 40 solo shows, regional, national and international. He has exhibited at the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** in NY, **Museum of Contemporary Art ,(MoCA)** Los Angeles, the **White House**, the **New Museum** and the **Smithsonian Institute**.

Locally, he has exhibited at the *Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art*, *Vassar College*, *Carrie Haddad Gallery*, *BAU Gallery* in Beacon, *Carl Van Brunt* gallery, *Woodstock Center for Photography*, *Hudson River Museum*, *Collaborative Concepts*, and the *Samuel Morse Museum* . His **Solar House** sculpture, **Solar Photo-Car** and **Solar Bus Shelter** appeared in the 2005, 2007 and 2009 **Kingston Sculpture Biennial**. He participated in the **Newburgh Sculpture Project** and *Photo-Lamp* window installations at the **Whitney Museum of American Art** annex, **Broadway Windows**, **Macy's** and **Barneys New York**. Other group exhibits include O.K. Harris Gallery, Center for Photography in Woodstock, High Museum of Art, Sidney Janis Gallery, Dorsky Museum of Art, Montclair Museum, New Jersey State Museum, Velan Arte Contemporanea, Turin, Italy, American Academy in Rome, Kean College of NJ, to name a few.

Franc has received over 20 grants, fellowships and residencies including the prestigious *Rome Prize Fellowship*, the *Louis Comfort Tiffany* grant, two *Polaroid Sponsorships* , two grants from the *New Jersey State Council on the Arts*, three *NYFA-SOS grants* and three *Dutchess County Arts Council* grants . He was selected **Poughkeepsian of the Year** by the *Weekly Beat* and received two **Executive Arts Awards** from the Dutchess County Arts Council in 2003 and 2006. In 2007, Franc was awarded the, **Friend of the Arts Award** by the Mill Street Loft for outstanding contribution to public art in Dutchess County and in 2010, was named "**Best Friend to the Arts in Poughkeepsie**" from the Hudson Valley Magazine. Most recently, selected as "**Distinguished Alumni of 2012**" by Kean University of New Jersey.

He is listed in "**Who's Who in American Art**" and has curated over eighteen group exhibitions in the US and in Italy since 1982. Venues include the Newark Museum, Alternative Museum, Collaborative Concepts in Beacon, Velan- Arte Contemporanea in Torino, Italy and the American Academy in Rome. Two of these shows were reviewed in the *New York Times* and one in *Tema Celeste*.

As a muralist, Franc has painted numerous outdoor and indoor murals, including one of the largest murals, (350 feet long) on the east coast in Jersey City, NJ. His "*Olde Main Street Mural*" in downtown Poughkeepsie and his "*Empire State Games* mural on the Mid-Hudson Civic Center have been instrumental in revitalizing lower Main Street beginning in 2002. Since 1996, Franc has received four commissions from **New Jersey Transit** to paint an outdoor mural and design five etched-glass windscreens for the Woodbridge, NJ Train Station and the Hudson County Light Rail in Bayonne, NJ.

In Poughkeepsie, Franc has been very active in numerous public art projects. He was co-founder and co-organizer of **ArtWalk**, **ArtHop**, **Friday on Main**, **Art Along the Hudson**, the **Gallery Shop** and **Weekend on Main** all cited as a positive forces in the revitalization of downtown Poughkeepsie.

Franc was the muralist/instructor for the largest indoor mural in Poughkeepsie. An ambitious mural, (8'x138 feet) fills the entire parameter of the Poughkeepsie High School gymnasium and was a 2003-05 collaboration with Mill Street Loft's **Project Able** with

100 high school students. Franc served 6 years on the Board of Directors at the **Barrett Art Center** two as Vice President.

Since the mid seventies, Franc has worked, assisted and collaborated with many internationally celebrated artists such as; Salvador Dali, Annie Leibovitz, Richard Hambleton, Robert Wilson, Crash, and Jean-Michel Basquiat. Palaia's works are included in dozens of public and private collections including the Museum of Modern Art, NY, Johnson & Johnson's, McDonald's Corp., Newark Museum, Polaroid Corp., private collectors include author Oscar Hijuelos, heiress Ariadne Getty, Peter R. Stern, Billy Name, Senator Frank Lautenberg, Nixon's speech writer Frank Gannon and singer Diana Ross, to name a few.

From 2007-2011, Franc was producer and on- air host of a Time Warner Cable Television program on the visual arts. **ARTS FOCUS**, a weekly half hour program presented visual artists, filmmakers, architects, art historians, curators, local mayors and others to discuss current art projects, exhibitions and trends.

In 2007, Franc created the **Guided Walking Tours of Public Art in Poughkeepsie**. The tour highlights the many historical and contemporary murals and sculptures located in a five- block area of downtown Poughkeepsie. They include the nationally significant New Deal era murals commissioned by FDR in the late 1930s and early 1940s. This is the only tour of its kind in the Hudson Valley.

Franc has traveled to 25 countries and speaks three languages. From his travels, he has published several photographic books on a variety of topics.

In 2008-9, Franc was awarded two commissions from the **Ulster County Transit System** to create an outdoor solar powered sculptural sign and a large interior mural at their new transit center facility in Kingston, NY.

Franc was co- founder & director of **G.A.S. Visual Art & Performance Space**. A contemporary cultural center that presented solo and group exhibitions, musical performances, poetry readings, slide talks, book signings, film and video screenings and many special events throughout the year.

He has a B.A. in painting from Newark State College, now Kean University, NJ and an M.F.A. in painting and photography from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Franc lives and works in Poughkeepsie, NY and Jersey City, NJ.