

DARRYL RATCLIFF

ARTIST PORTFOLIO / 2026

Social sculpture. Public art. Civic imagination.



CARE AS A CIVIC MATERIAL

Darryl Ratcliff builds collaborative, durational cultural projects that make the usually invisible labor of care, memory, and collective power visible. Working across social sculpture, public art, poetry, and civic systems, he treats listening, gathering, and institution-building as artistic materials. His projects begin with local knowledge and become forms people can enter, alter, and carry forward.

BIO

Darryl Ratcliff is a Dallas-based artist, poet, and cultural strategist whose work sits at the intersection of art, civic life, and cultural equity. He co-founded Ash Studios, a Black- and Brown-led social sculpture in South Dallas, and developed The Plant Library, Creating Our Future, and Movement Portal #1. Ratcliff is a YBCA 10 Fellow and Rabkin Prize recipient, with artist awards from the Dallas Museum of Art, Nasher Sculpture Center, and City of Dallas.

13+

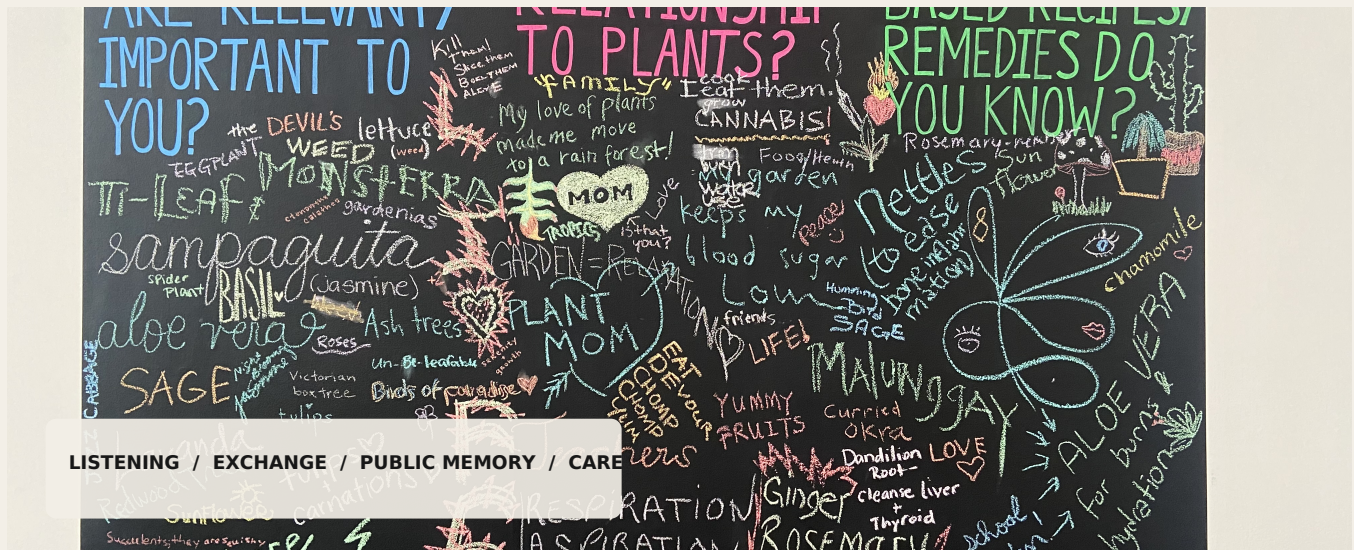
YEARS SUSTAINING
ASH STUDIOS

45,000+

PEOPLE SERVED
THROUGH ASH*

\$3.2M+

ARTIST + EQUITY
FUNDING INFLUENCED



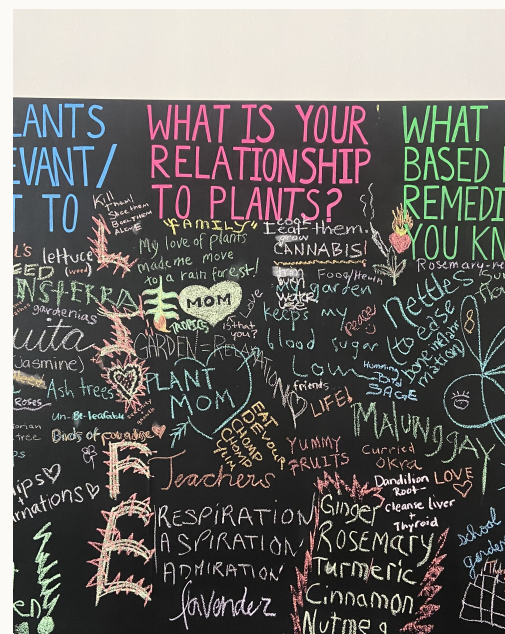
*Cumulative figure reported in the artist's 2023 CV.

THE PLANT LIBRARY

2021-22 / CO-CREATED WITH NIKIKO MASUMOTO / YBCA 10 + DREAMSEEDS, SAN FRANCISCO



Visitors checked out living plants, learned care rituals, documented their relationships, and returned plants with stories for the next caretaker. The project turns circulation into a collective practice of stewardship. Built through community questions, plant journals, workshops, and an evolving archive, it reconnects urban participants to land while testing how trust can be designed into a public artwork.



Community questions accumulated as a public drawing.

METHODS **EXCHANGE / CARE / STORYTELLING / LIVING ARCHIVE**

WATCH THE PROJECT FILM [↗](#)

ASH STUDIOS / DECOLONIZE DALLAS

2012-PRESENT / 2017 / SOUTH DALLAS + FOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SITES



ASH STUDIOS

Co-founded by Ratcliff and Fred Villanueva in 2012, Ash is a 20,000-square-foot, bilingual, artist-led social sculpture in South Dallas. Its studios, exhibitions, performances, civic organizing, and collaborations have made cultural space itself the artwork: a long-term structure for belonging, experimentation, and public life.

DECOLONIZE DALLAS

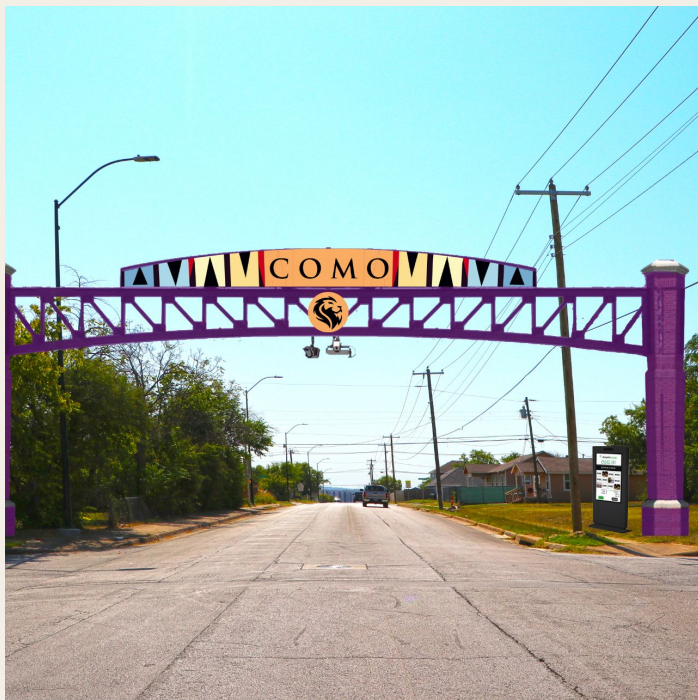
Organized through Michelada Think Tank, this 2017 series commissioned site-specific exhibitions and interventions in Pleasant Grove, West Dallas, Red Bird, and Vickery Meadow. It shifted who could author Dallas's cultural narrative and placed artists and communities at the margins at the center of public attention. Images show related collective projects Super Fantasy Mercado and Mni Wiconi (Water Is Life).

[READ THE ARTIST PROFILE](#) ➔

Images courtesy of Darryl Ratcliff.

MOVEMENT PORTAL #1

2021-PRESENT / PUBLIC ART IN PROGRESS / LAKE COMO, FORT WORTH, TEXAS



Preliminary gateway renderings, 2024.

Movement Portal #1 is a permanent gateway for Fort Worth's historic Black Lake Como neighborhood, developed through a five-year process. The artwork translates local priorities - visibility, youth, history, color, and welcome - into a monumental civic threshold.

The process has included community dinners, advisory meetings, small-business visits, Black Arts Expo, youth artist mentorship, and public design review. The portal's purple structure, geometric patterning, and central lion draw from neighborhood identity while creating a highly visible marker for daily passage.



[VIEW FORT WORTH PUBLIC ART](#) ➤



“The artist’s role can be to help the institutions and relationships people are already building become visible, shared, and durable.”

SELECTED RECOGNITION

2022 Rabkin Prize, Dorothea and Leo Rabkin Foundation
2021 YBCA 10 Fellowship + YBCA 100
2020 / 2015 Artist Grants, Nasher Sculpture Center
2016 Arch and Anne Giles Kimbrough Fund Award, Dallas Museum of Art
2016 Best Gallery or Artspace, D Magazine
2013 Best Artful Do-Gooder, Dallas Observer

SELECTED PROJECTS

Ash Studios, 2012-present
Creating Our Future, 2014-present
Decolonize Dallas, 2017
The Plant Library, 2021-22
Movement Portal #1, 2021-present
Rainbow Estates Sculpture, 2018

DARRYL RATCLIFF

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[YBCA ARTIST PROFILE ↗](#)