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Born in New Orleans, Louisiana

Education

Institute San Miguel de Allende, Mexico	1971
Bella Artes de San Fernando, Madrid	1969
Loretta Heights College (Regis University), Denver	1968

Professional Overview

Jana Napoli's career began through her study of painting and mixed media. She established herself as a professional artist in the 1970s with painting residencies and exhibits in Paris, London and Guatemala City. Returning home in the early 1980s, Ms. Napoli opened her own gallery and Bed & Breakfast, joining an urban redevelopment movement that spawned what is now known as the New Orleans Arts District.

In 1988, she opened the doors of her own studio to the commercial art students of the neighboring vocational high school and founded YA/YA. **YA/YA, Inc. (Young Aspirations/Young Artists)** is a non-profit arts and social service organization, whose mission is to empower creative young people to become successful adults. Ya/Ya does this by providing educational experiences in the arts and entrepreneurship to New Orleans-area youth, and by fostering and supporting their ambitions.

In the years 1988-2000, Jana stepped back from her own artwork and turned her creative energy to YA/YA, serving as the full-time director. Now in its 23rd year of operation, YA/YA has gained national and international acclaim and is looked to as a model in youth development. In 2001, Ms. Napoli shifted her role to serve on the board of directors. She now serves as the Honorary Chair of YA/YA's Advisory Council.

She also began to paint again and create artwork in new media – designing internet sites and creating animation shorts. *Floodwall*, documenting the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the City of New Orleans integrates her focus on community with mixed media and digital presentation.

Post Katrina, Jana Napoli began the ongoing art installation called *Floodwall*, composed of over 700 drawers salvaged from the streets of New Orleans in the aftermath of the 2005 devastation. *Floodwall* was an attempt to give voice to the silence of a city in ruin and a people in diaspora.

First exhibited at Ground Zero in 2007, the installation traveled extensively, and then returned home to New Orleans for December 3rd of 2011 to be cremated on the banks of the Mississippi River for the City of New Orleans.

(Select) Solo Exhibits

- 2010 On Board of the Kurier Ship, Berlin, Germany
- 2010 Under-Standing Water and Before (During) After: LA Photographers Respond to Katrina, Houston, TX
- 2010 Wroclaw National Museum, Wroclaw, Poland
- 2009 Previously On Piety - Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA
- 2009 German Emigration Center, Bremerhaven, Germany
- 2009 On Piety - Prospect 1 Biennial, New Orleans, LA
- 2009 Clifton Cultural Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH
- 2008 Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX
- 2007 Louisiana State Museum, Baton Rouge, LA
- 2007 World Financial Center, New York, NY
- 1988 628 Gallery, New Orleans, LA
- 1987 628 Gallery, New Orleans, LA
- 1982 Masur Museum, Monroe, LA
- 1979 Units, New Orleans, LA
- 1978 Ross Thiele & Sons Gallery, La Jolla, CA
- 1975 World Trade Center, New Orleans, LA
- 1975 Ahyers Gallery, London, LA
- 1974 Upper St. Gallery, London
- 1973 Maison de L'Amerique, Latine, Paris
- 1973 Cassino de Caubourg, Deauville, France
- 1972 Gallery de Arquitectos, Mexico City, Mexico
- 1971 Federal Gallery, Guatemala City, Guatemala
- 1970 Napoleon Gallery, New Orleans, LA
- 1968 Mini Gallery, Denver, CO

(Select) Group Exhibits

- 2004 George Schmidt Gallery, New Orleans
- 1992 New Orleans Museum of Art
- 1992 Downtown Gallery, New Orleans
- 1989 Cork Gallery, Lincoln Center, New York
- 1989 Lutten, Clarey and Stem, New York
- 1988 Atelier Napoli, New Orleans
- 1987 Atelier Napoli, New Orleans
- 1986 Duplantier Gallery, New Orleans
- 1973 Salon de Paris Sud, Paris
- 1971 Gallery Itati, Mexico City
- 1970 State Gallery of Louisiana, Baton Rouge
- 1970 Downtown Gallery, New Orleans

(Select) Private Collections

Faulkner House, New Orleans
Herve Odermatt, Paris
Miguel Angel Asturias, Paris
Captain Tim Rogers, Dublin
Matilda Grey Stream, New Orleans
Masur Museum, Monroe
American Medical Association, Washington, D.C.
Dianne Von Furstenberg, New York

(select Private Collections)

Marguerite Espinosa, Contesa de Mansigny, Mexico City
International House, New Orleans, LA
Masur Museum, Monroe, LA

(Select) Reviews

San Diego Union, March 27, 1977
Times-Picayune, March 31, 1976, Diane Sustendal, "An Artist and Her Subjects"
Times-Picayune, March 27, 1975, George Jordan
London Weekly Diary, July 21, 1974
London Arts Review, June 1974
Catalogue Paris , Fourteenth Salon International, 1973
Paris Normandie, August 20, 1973
Sociales, February 10, 1972
El Sol de Mexico, February 10, 1972, p. 3
Novedade, February 10, 1972, Centerfold
El Imparcial, Guatemala City, Guatemala, Monday, January 4, 1971

(Select) Curated Exhibits -- YA/YA exhibits curated by Jana Napoli

1995 Art- arium 15, Young DeungPo- Gu - Seoul Convention Center, Seoul, Korea
1994 "Columns" - 628 Gallery, New Orleans, LA
1994 "Drapes and Shapes" - 628 Gallery, New Orleans, LA
1993 "YA/YA Mixes it Up" - Delgado Gallery, New Orleans, LA
1993 Inauguration Documentary - Spectrum Gallery, San Francisco, CA
1993 "YA/YA - Sit Down in Tokyo" - Aki- Ex Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
1993 "YA/YA at the Beach" - University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL
1993 "Hello, Tokyo, We Are YA/YA" - Seibu Department Store Gallery, Japan
1992 "YA/YA Speaks" - Architects and Designers Building, New York
1992 "YA/YA Works on Cloth" - 628 Gallery, New Orleans, LA
1992 International Contemporary Furniture Fair - Javits Center, New York
1992 "Awt ' N Clawt" - 628 Gallery, New Orleans, LA

1991 "YA/YA Back from Europe" - 628 Gallery, New Orleans, LA
1991 Jean Francois Guyot Gallery - Paris, France
1991 "YA/YA on the Road" - Eaton Gallery, Memphis, TN
1991 Group show - Gallery of Functional Art, Santa Monica, CA
1990 Piero Della Francesca Memorial Chair Exhibition - 628 Gallery, New Orleans, LA
1990 YA/YA Group Show - Claiborne Gallery, New York
1990 Piero Della Francesca Foundation and YA/YA - Sansepolcro Civic Museum
1990 International Chair Design Exhibition - Udine, Italy
1989 Painted chairs - New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival
1989 "Storytelling Chifforobes" - Cork Gallery, Lincoln Center, NY
1988 Norman Therrien and Hajimu Ito - 628 Gallery, New Orleans, LA

Design Clients -- *contracts awarded to YA/YA under Jana Napoli's creative direction*

OTHER PROJECTS

1996 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Congo Square poster
1995 United States Department of Agriculture (Washington, DC): Nutrition education poster
1995 United Nations (New York): 50th Anniversary Celebration, 582 slipcovers for the General Assembly Hall delegate chairs
1994 Swatch, Ltd. (Switzerland): a collection of three watches
19__ Hammachacher Schlemmer, limited-edition painted chair collection
19__ Alessi, limited edition vase series

Awards:

2002 Oprah Winfrey's "Use Your Life Award" (awarded to Jana Napoli, with \$100,00 grant for YA/YA)
1999 President's Committee on Arts and Humanities "Coming Up Taller" Award (presented to YA/YA with \$10,000 grant)
1988 Junior Merit Award, Dallas Women's Caucus for Art (presented to Jana Napoli)
1991 Mayor's Arts Award, presented by the Arts Council of New Orleans to YA/YA

Professional Affiliations

2004- present YA/YA, Advisory Council, Honorary Chair
2006 Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, Katrina Artist Fund, Advisory Board Member

Print Media Reviews for Ya/Ya Inc.

(selected)

San Francisco Examiner, June 2, 1993, p.3
Kenchiku Chiski (Japan) June,1993. p. 37
Friday, (Tokyo) March 12,1993, p.46
Popeye, (Tokyo) February 24, 1993 p.9
Arts Quarterly, Winter 1993, p.10- 12
Art News, May 1992, p.148
Avant Grade, (Holland) May 1992, p.10
Provencale Journal, July 21, 1991, p.5
Ambient, March 3,1991.p.10
Casa Vogue, December 1990, p. 149
The Face, September 1990, p. 17
British Vogue, August 1990, p. 54- 55
World of Interiors, July/August, 1990, p. 14
Abitare, January 1989 Cove & p. 116- 119
Vogue Decoration, French & International Editions, October/November 1989, p. 132- 135
Metropolis, July/August 1989, p.29
Art Business News, June 1989, p.1
The New York Magazine, April 10, 1989, p.41

Publications

The Majesty of the French Quarter, by Kerri McCaffety, Pelican Publishing, 2000, pages

YA/YA: Young New Orleans Artists and Their Storytelling Chairs (and How to YA/YA in Your Neighborhood), by Claudia Barker, Louisiana State University Press, 1996

New Orleans: Elegance and Decadence, narrative by Randolph Delehanty, Photographs by Richard Sexton, San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1993, pages

Television Features:

2004 NBC's "Today" show, follow-up story "Inner-City Threads"

2003 NBC's "Today" show, "Lend a Hand" program, recipient of \$50,000 worth of goods

2002 The Oprah Winfrey Show

OTHER TV...Sesame Street

Skills:

Languages: fluent in Spanish and French; proficient in Italian