

Ryan Christenson

Distinguished Alumni Honoree and 2019 Mark T. Sheehan Hall of Famer Ryan Christenson spent all of his childhood school days as a student in the Wallingford schools, graduating from Sheehan High School in 2005. Post high school, Ryan graduated in 2009 from Naugatuck Valley Community College, but it is Mrs. Ellen Dressel, one of his Sheehan teachers, whom he credits as his inspiration to take his art to the next level. Little did he realize then that under his future professional name of ARCY, he would become nationally and internationally recognized for his photo realistic mural art using the medium of spray paint.

Stressing the fact that he wants people to recognize graffiti art can be done in a positive way, ARCY has created hundreds of murals. Some of his national work includes murals for the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington, D.C., for America's National Parks at the Indiana Dunes Visitor Center in Porter, IN, for the United States Department of Defense Contracted Affiliate in Great Bend, KS, for the National Archives/Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum in Independence, MO, for Super Bowl LIV - The Dan Patrick Show in Miami, FL, and for Major League Baseball/Fox Sports/Kansas City Royals in Kansas City, MO. Further, ARCY has done mural and watch design for Citizen Watch of New York City and is a licensed artist of Disney Fine Art/The Walt Disney Company. Some of ARCY's more notable permanent large-scale works include an eight story high mural, a rooftop mural, and a hundred foot long mural.

Internationally, ARCY's credits include murals at the Sydney Royal Easter Show - Sydney, Australia, at the Pacific National Exhibition - Vancouver, Canada, at Urban Act - Volos, Greece, at Waterford Walls - Waterford, Ireland, at the Up Festival - Bristol, England, and at Loures Arte Pública - Loures, Portugal.

Ryan's national and international accomplishments are genuinely impressive, but deep down inside, he feels his greatest gift is when he donates his time and works of art back to the community. ARCY has donated his talents by creating murals at many of Wallingford's schools including Sheehan, Fritz, and Pond Hill. ARCY's local contributions also include Manchester high and Clintonville elementary schools along with mural work for multiple North Haven sports teams. Further, Ryan collaborates with non-profit mural organizations across Connecticut including CT Murals, RiseUP for Arts and the Greater Hartford Arts Council. As communicated to his wife, Ryan loves giving back to local communities and in particular, being able to share his artwork with children. His ability to captivate and inspire children with his story of how he took his dream in life and turned it into a blossoming career motivates children to see their own potential to turn their dreams into reality.

Ryan Christenson's talent and his generosity with that talent clearly elevate him to the honor of Distinguished Alumnus.