

BIOGRAPHY

IZZO was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1964. Coming from a family of six siblings, life could at times become a circus of sorts. Butch, which they called him, came to realize his birth name was Anthony only when he heard it for the first time in kindergarten at roll call on his first day of class. It took him some time to get used to. Later in life he professionally adopted his last name, as there were too many Tonys in the art arena, and **IZZO** was a name people would not forget!

At an early age, **IZZO** tapped into his showmanship performing magic tricks in his garage, clowning, and storytelling for just a nickel. (But he'd let you slide for just a penny!) In 1976 he organized a bicentennial parade that involved the neighborhood kids and their pets. His home and a few childhood friends were his rock, and his loving parents would give him the comfort and safe haven that he needed to get through. Early on in his childhood he would experience bullying by his peers, who saw him as a freak in some sideshow. This he would endure throughout his childhood and into high school. Here he would find his soul mate, Ricardo. It wasn't until attending **The School of the Art Institute of Chicago** for three years that **IZZO** would hop on the roller coaster that would blast him into his own!

Entering the Art Institute with dreams of becoming a filmmaker and animator, **IZZO's** focus shifted to printmaking and performance art. After three years he found himself financially strapped and dropped out. He then pursued painting by teaching himself at home. He would soon get a studio in an old warehouse in the South Loop of Chicago. In this building he would meet artists of all types who would inspire him to start thinking out of the box. He became more inspired by others and wanted to showcase their talents in a way that had a fresh approach to the arts.

In October of 1995 **ARTIKZM** was born, a one-night event that took the art world in Chicago by storm. **ARTIKZM** was equal parts circus, carnival, and theater. It worked its magic because of the many creative people that helped to make it happen. **IZZO'S Artery** followed, along with **Gallery 2828, Stolizzo Gallery, and JONES/IZZO Gallery.**

IZZO always took an interest in young inspiring artists incorporating them in his work as much as he could, believing that art could help youth to believe in themselves and become more confident. He was invited to speak at **Yollocalli Youth Museum** for troubled kids and was on the committee for **The Chicago Art Open Student Show**, which took place at the Art Institute campus in the West Loop. **IZZO** also was invited to lecture at **Columbia College, Daley College, and Moraine Valley College.**

He was a juror for the **Chicago C.A.P.S. Grant Review Board** and the **Wells Street, Hinsdale, Naperville, and Skokie Art Festivals**, which invited him back for seven years. He also resided on the **Chicago Artist Coalition Board** for four years.

In the last seven years **IZZO** has taken a step out of the spotlight only engaging in the art community sporadically and has been focusing on his own artwork. In his most recent body of work, **The Kaleidoscope of Love**, he pays homage to all the people with whom he has worked and has been inspired!

RESUME

Artikizm (one night art event) Curator / Organizer / Participating Artist

05/1995 Come Experience Artikizm
10/1995 Artikizm
03/1996 The Art Event of Your Life
06/1996 From the Inside Out
09/1996 Jigsaw

IZZO's Artery (Unique Gallery Experience) Curator

11/1996 Welcome to IZZO's Artery
02/1997 Cold Snap
03/1997 Love,Peace,IZZO's Artery
05/1997 Comfort Zone
06/1997 A Blood Line through the Arts
08/1997 Sizzle
09/1997 Make Contact
11/1997 One Year Anniversary Show
02/1998 Blast Off
04/1998 Absorb
05/1998 IZZOIZM
07/1998 Moist
09/1998 Grounded

Gallery 2828 Curator

11/1999 Emerge
03/2000 Fresh
04/2000 Blossom
10/2000 Alive
03/2001 Thaw
04/2001 Outbreak

STOLIZZO Gallery (partnership with James Stola) Curator

09/2002 Resurrect
10/2002 Tremor
03/2002 Penetrate
04/2002 Defrost
05/2002 Surge
06/2002 Bliss
10/2002 Rush
11/2002 Secretion
03/2003 Jolt

IZZO/JONES Arena for the Arts (partnership with Peter Jones) Curator

08/2003 Culture-A Traveling Exhibition
12/2003 3.2.1. Contact
02/2004 Throb
03/2004 Art-On
06/2004 5 on Five
07/2004 Artropolis
10/2004 Quiver

Guest Curator

05/1198 Union Street Gallery and Studio
Outside Influence
10/1999 Union Street Gallery and Studios
Gel
11/2000 Columbia College's Glass Curtain Gallery
50/50
02/2001 Contained Home Vintage Design Studio
Contained

Guest Speaker

09/1998 Columbia College (topic Alternative Galleries)
09/1998 Yollocalli Youth Museum (Tapping Inside Your Creativity)
04/1999 Daley College (Art Appreciation)
03/2002 Daley College (Art Appreciation)
10/2003 Moraine Valley College (Tapping Inside Your Creativity)
02/2004 Columbia College (Real Life After Finishing School)

Special Events (Created/Co Partnered/Committee)

07/1976 Organized Bicentennial Parade in Clearing Neighborhood
11/1996 Black and White Costume Ball
01/1997 Set Design for Add Water and Stir Productions
01/1198 Directed multimedia event "ABSTRACT"
11/1998 Chicago Art Open student show committee
07/2000 The Adam and Eve Ball
11/1999 The Chicago Art Open student show committee
11/2000 The Chicago Art Open student show committee
11/2001 The Chicago Art Open student show committee
10/2003 Directed multimedia event "ARTIVAL"

Juror

03/1998 City of Chicago C.A.P.S (Grants Review Board)
10/1998 Chicago Columbia College Student Exhibition (Cash awards)
04/1999 Daley College
07/1999 The Skokie Art Guild's Annual Art Fair (Cash awards)
07/2000 The Skokie Art Guild's 40th Annual Art Fair (Cash Awards)
02/2001 Wells Street Art Festival (Juried)
07/2001 The Skokie Art Guild's Annual Art Fair (Cash awards)
07/2002 The Skokie Art Guild's Annual Art Fair (Cash awards)
06/2003 The Hinsdale Fine Arts Festival (Cash awards)
07/2003 The Skokie Art Guild's Annual Art Fair (Cash awards)
09/2003 The Naperville Fine Arts Fair (Cash awards)
09/2003 Northbrook Public Library (Cash awards)
07/2004 The Skokie Art Guild's Annual Art Fair (Cash awards)
07/2005 The Skokie Art Guild's Annual Art Fair (Cash awards)
07/2006 The Skokie Art Guild's Annual Art Fair (Cash awards)
07/2007 The Skokie Art Guild's Annual Art Fair (Cash awards)
07/2008 The Skokie Art Guild's Annual Art Fair (Cash awards)
07/2009 The Skokie Art Guild's Annual Art Fair (Cash awards)
07/2010 The Skokie Art Guild's Annual Art Fair (Cash awards)
07/2011 The Skokie Art Guild's Annual Art Fair (Cash awards)

Special Programs

Open Mike Poetry Readings
“Under the Stars” indoor concert Series
(performance artist, musicians, theater)
Vince Charming Puppet Company
Afternoon Delight Sundays
Children’s Day at the Art Opens

Publications/TV/Radio

02/1996 Cable Access Discover Art (IZZO)
08/1996 Cable Access Discover Art (IZZO’s the Man)
09/1996 WGN 720 (The Jan Covenam Show-IZZO the man behind Artikizm
09/1996 Streetwise (Shannon Jones-A Kinetic Combination Artikizm Art+People)
10/1997 Chicago Reader (Deanna Isaacs-Open Door Policy at the Artery)
11/1997 New City (Joseph Houseal-Pumping Art)
11/1997 College Radio 90.3 (Effe Anapolis-an interview with IZZO)
02/1998 Where Chicago Magazine (All Access Art)
05/1998 Cultural Crossroads (Ricardo Frazer-translated by Matt Kelly-All Access
06/1998 Chicago Artist News (C.A.C. Publication-Kristen Brooke Schiefer-IZZO)
11/1998 Gay Chicago Magazine (Terry Gaskin- Out and About: IZZO
03/2001 City Talk (WTTW Chicago Channel 11-Bob Kochier-This Truck Art?)
06/2002 C.L.T.V Fox (Around Chicago-STOLIZZO an Unusual Combination)
09/2003 College Radio 90.3 (Effe Anapolis- IZZO talks about ARTIVAL)

“Everything embracing everything. IZZO completely restores the genuine environment surrounding art: artist, lovers of beauty. Skill, abandoned inhibition and globalist congeniality are the fragrance of the air.” - Joseph Houseal, New City

IZZO resides with his soul mate Ricardo of 34 years where they both grew up, on the southwest side of Chicago After waking away from the spotlight he continues to concentrate on creating his artwork.