

Michael Ricardo Arteaga

Michael Ricardo Arteaga, alias Loaf, has always called the mountains of both Georgia and Ecuador his home. This world-renowned artist has installations from as far away as China throughout Europe and all the way to the Galapagos Islands.

Having lived in many countries around the world, he has worked from studios in China, Ecuador, France, Germany, and Spain. Arteaga has work on public display and in private collections in over 30 countries. His murals act as sign posts of both his travels and the course of his artwork as he pushes himself to explore new concepts. During his recent visit to the Galapagos Islands, Arteaga was commissioned to paint LA ENTRADA, an “abstract yet figurative” work, it welcomes visitors from around world to this exotic land.

A graduate of SCAD's computer art program he also holds his Master's in Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology. The artist was recently commissioned by the government of China to illustrate a series of twelve children's books for one of China's leading publishing houses. His work can now be found in bookstores throughout China. These books feature his cartoon self-portrait in the form of a raccoon-cat named Lo Lo who, with his friend, Meilee, a Panda, travel throughout China sharing adventures while learning about language and culture. The books availability on the international market is planned with their introduction to European and North American bookstores.

He has recently begun working for a foundation based in Shanghai after living in a Taiwanese monastery with monks. He thus began 2017 traveling to China, Laos, and Cambodia where he created art to benefit children. Currently he is creating a body of work investigating the energies of the lands and peoples between the American South West and Mexico City. Before 2015 he could be found painting murals and working on commissions along the coast of Ecuador while volunteering his time with local children and schools in the area. He believes that young people hold the future in their hands and, in addition to designing products in China which help children and families there, he always finds time to give back to the community he finds himself in by teaching art to deserving young people. Arteaga always looks forward to wherever his next project will take him and gives thanks to for all the good people he meets along the way.