

YELTSIN PENADO

b. 1990, Los Angeles, CA

Lives and works in Los Angeles, California, USA

www.YeltsinPenado.com

YeltsinPenado@gmail.com

Bio

Yeltsin Penado (b. 1990) is a Salvadoran-American artist who works in Los Angeles, California. He primarily focuses on Writing, Digital Media, Animation, and Sculpture. He graduated from the School of Painting at Otis College of Art and Design, where he also studied Community Arts Engagement. Is a MFA in Media Art Candidate at UCLA.

Education

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) — Los Angeles, CA
MFA, Media Arts, expected 2029

Otis College of Art and Design — Los Angeles, CA
BFA, Painting, with Honors, 2018
Minor, Community Arts Engagement
Artists, Community, and Teaching (ACT) Program

Moorpark College — Moorpark, CA
AA, Studio Arts, 2014

Certifications/Additional Coursework

- World War 2 history, Hillsdale College, 2025
- Animation, Storyboarding, and Storytelling, Santa Monica College 2024
- Nonprofit Accounting & Development, Center for Nonprofit Management, 2024
- Machine Woodworking, Otis College of Art and Design, 2022

Work Experience

Schools Program Manager

Rediscover Center, Los Angeles, CA | 2021–Present

- Lead school-based programs with a focus on woodworking, sustainability, and maker education.
- Design and implement hands-on curriculum that integrates creative reuse and STEAM learning.
- Manage staff, oversee program execution, and maintain equipment and materials for a large-scale makerspace.
- Cultivate partnerships with schools and community organizations to expand access to creative education.

Graphic Arts Instructor

Digital Dragon, Santa Monica, CA | 2019–2021

- Taught digital art, 3D modeling, animation, creative coding, graphic design, and portfolio development.
 - Supported students in developing technical skills and creative projects using digital media tools.
 - Created curriculum, onboarding materials, and instructional resources for arts technology programs.
 - Managed studio operations, staff schedules, client communication, and equipment inventory.
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Exhibitions, Projects, and Performances

2026

- *Experimental Painting workshop*, The Pit, Glendale, CA
- *Experimental Painting workshop*, Rediscover Center Mid City, Los Angeles, CA
- *Big Kids*, 1725 Newton St., Los Angeles, CA
- *Experimental Drawing workshop*, Rediscover Center Mid City, Los Angeles, CA

2025

- *What's My Thesis?*, Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, CA

2024

- *Americana in the Park* Concert Series, Featured Artist, Santa Monica, CA
- *Latino Heritage Month 2024 Cultural Guide*, Featured Artist, Los Angeles, CA
- *West Adams Jazz Festival*, Puppetry Performance, West Adams, Los Angeles, CA
- *LA TAR FEST 2024*, Featured Artist Installation, La Brea Tar Pits & Museum, Los Angeles, CA

2023

- *Where Is Your Safe Space? 2*, Mur+Mur Contemporary & :DDD Kunst House, curated by Ruxandra Mitache, Montreux, Switzerland
- *Latino Heritage Month 2023 Cultural Guide*, Featured Artist, Los Angeles, CA
- *Canvas Rebel*, Featured Interview, Los Angeles, CA
- *Americana in the Park* Concert Series, Featured Artist, Santa Monica, CA
- *Cardboard City*, Group Exhibition, curated by Jennifer Racusin
- *Hacked at 100k*, Group Exhibition, curated by Ben Gottlieb
- *Art in the Age of Video Games* — GTA Mods featured in *Game Scenes* article by Matteo Bittanti
- *What's My Thesis?* Podcast, Episode #176, hosted by Javier Proenza
- *Future is Now*, Group Exhibition, Ave 50 Studio, Los Angeles, CA

2022

- *Where Are the Painters?*, Group Exhibition, :DDD Kunst House
- *Americana in the Park* Concert Series, Artist in Residence, Santa Monica, CA
- *Latino Heritage Month 2022*, Featured Artist, Department of Cultural Affairs, Los Angeles, CA
- *FRESH*, Group Exhibition, Rod Briggs Gallery, Long Beach Creative Group, Long Beach, CA

2021

- *Our Troubles Are Over*, Group Exhibition, Artist Co-op, Long Beach, CA

- *Latino Heritage Month 2021*, Featured Artist, Department of Cultural Affairs, Los Angeles, CA
- *Oddi Skateboards*, Featured Artist, curated by Ben Gottlieb
- *SuperBloom*, Duo Exhibition, Open Gallery, Long Beach, CA
- *Monalisa Has No Eyebrows*, Podcast Guest
- *Revil: 2021*, Featured Streamer, hosted by Sound Tent
- *Shout Out LA*, Featured Article
- *Show of Gratitude*, Group Exhibition, Artist Co-op Long Beach, curated by May Roded
- *Home*, Group Exhibition, Elysian Valley Arts Collective

2020

- *UTOPIA*, Group Exhibition and Publication, curated by Yeltsin Penado
- *Imaginar*, Group Exhibition, Arroyo Arts Collective
- *Revil: 2020*, Featured Streamer, hosted by Sound Tent

2019

- *Small Works in Flux*, Group Exhibition, Flux Art Space, Long Beach, CA
- *Long Beach Zine Fest*, Exhibitor
- *MegaZine, Issue 4*, Animation Feature
- *Revil: 2019*, Featured Streamer, hosted by Sound Tent, London, UK
- *Voyage LA*, Featured Artist Article

2018

- *Long Beach Zine Fest*, Exhibitor
- *Like Assassins, Beautiful Loving Assassins*, El Classificado, curated by Pamela Ramos, Beverly Hills, CA
- *No Shade Under the Shadow of the Boss*, Galef Fine Arts Center, Los Angeles, CA

2017

- *Wilderness as Myth and Metaphor*, Autry Museum of the American West, curated by Ian James and Aurora Tang, Los Angeles, CA
- *Buyer's Remorse*, Group Exhibition, Bolsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- *Narrow Wavelengths*, Group Exhibition, Bolsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- *Long Beach Zine Fest*, Exhibitor, Long Beach, CA

Public Collections

- Long Beach Public Library
 - *Perfumeland*, Artist Catalog, 2019
 - *Anti-Matters*, Artist Catalog, 2017

Awards

- Graduate Opportunity Award, UCLA, 2026
- Artist's Grant, Andy Warhol Foundation, 2021
- Imaginar, Arroyo Arts Collective, 2020
- Academic Excellence Award, Otis College of Art and Design, 2018
- Group Scholarship, Otis College of Art and Design 2017-2018

Teaching Experience

ReDiscover Center, Los Angeles, CA (2021–Present)

TK–12 Maker-Education Workshops

- Educator Workshops (Professional Development)
- Cardboard Art & Engineering
- Cardboard Cosplay
- Beginning and Advanced Woodworking

New West Charter School, Los Angeles, CA (2019–2021)

8th Grade Electives

- Digital Design with a Dash of Entrepreneurship
- Game Design
- Creative Coding & Web Development
- Experimental Filmmaking & Video Art

Digital Dragon, Santa Monica, CA (2019–2021)

K–12 Creative Technology Workshops

- Intro to 2D/3D Game Design
- 3D Modeling & Animation
- Creative Coding
- Web Design
- Video Editing
- Animation & Digital Illustration

Santa Monica High School, Santa Monica, CA (2018)

- High School Art Internship (9th–12th Grade)

Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts, Los Angeles, CA (2018)

- Paper Weaving (Kindergarten)

Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, CA (2018)

- Natural Dyes & Pigments
- Seed Bomb Workshop
- Paper Weaving

Presentations

2026

- Loose Parts Education (Guest Lecture), Los Angeles City College ECE, Los Angeles, CA

2025

- *Creative Cardboard Construction Techniques*, ArtsMatter Symposium (LAUSD), Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA

2024

- *California STEAM Symposium 2024*, with LAUSD + Rediscover Center

2023

- *California STEAM Symposium 2023*, Los Angeles, CA

Skills

Artistic & Technical

- Painting, Sculpture, Fibers, Ceramics, Casting
- Woodworking & Metalworking (tool use, safety, maintenance)
- Digital Media: Animation, Video Editing, 3D Modeling
- Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere, After Effects)
- Game Design & Scripting (Arma 3 Terrain Building, SQF)

Educational & Professional

- Curriculum & Lesson Design (STEAM, Maker Education, Community Arts)
- Program Development & Coordination
- Studio & Equipment Management (woodshop, makerspace, digital devices)
- Workshop Facilitation (children, youth, adults)

Interpersonal & Leadership

- Team Leadership & Mentorship
- Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration
- Communication & Public Speaking
- Community Engagement & Partnership Building