

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Ragan received her BA degree in studio arts from Birmingham-Southern College in 1958. From 1968 to 1973 she studied oil painting, photography, sculpture, art history, and philosophy at Allegheny College. She also took printmaking classes at Carnegie Mellon University during this time. In the early 1980s, after a hiatus in her artistic career, she decided to pursue a graduate degree. She received her MFA in photography and printmaking from Pratt Institute, New York in 1985. After graduation she taught at Auburn University for several years until moving to Tacoma in 1989 to begin her position at Puget Sound.

Ragan was instrumental in developing Puget Sound's programs in photography and printmaking and keeping them current as technology changed. She retired as professor emeritus in 2004. She also taught privately both before and after retirement.

Ragan exhibited her work nationally and internationally in numerous solo and group exhibitions from which she received national acclaim and several awards. Her last show, *Geometry Rising: Part 1*, was at Gallery 110, Seattle, in April 2014. This final series, a number of which are on view in this gallery, brought together the artistic interests of a lifetime in large format acrylic paintings with photographic insets.

In addition to her artistic career, Ragan was a champion of progressive causes for women, gay rights, and human rights around the world. She also was a community volunteer and passionate advocate for a variety of national and local organizations including Southern Poverty Law Center, Special Olympics, and the Tacoma Rescue Mission.