

Louis Ocepek

I was born in Detroit, Michigan. I attended undergraduate school in that city, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Wayne State University in 1964, with a concentration in Graphic Design. Following work experience in Graphic Design, Advertising Design and Illustration, I attended graduate school at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, receiving a Master of Arts degree in 1967, studying Painting, Graphic Design, Typography and Printmaking.

In 1967 I accepted my first university teaching position at Montana State University in Bozeman. At Montana State I assisted in the establishment of the Professional Design Program, with emphases in Graphic, Industrial and Interior Design, and the Printmaking Program, with emphases in all major print media.

Following my work at Montana State University, I helped establish a professional design studio in Vancouver, British Columbia. Following that experience, I taught Graphic Design, Illustration and Screenprinting for twelve years at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. I continued my active career as a designer and illustrator while also exhibiting my studio work nationally and internationally. Following this prolific and rewarding period, I returned to Montana State University in 1982 to direct the Professional Design Program, teaching specialized design courses and supervising faculty in Graphic and Interior Design.

In 1985 I accepted a position at New Mexico State University, directing the Graphic Design Program, teaching a broad spectrum of Graphic Design, Screenprinting, Watercolor and Illustration courses and continuing my professional studio work. I served for six years as head of the Department of Art at New Mexico State, directing the department during a period of expansion and productivity. I resumed full time teaching and creative work at New Mexico State University in the fall of 1994. In 2001, I was awarded the Westhafer Award for Excellence in Teaching. Following a 35 year retrospective exhibition at NMSU's University Art Gallery in 2001, I retired from full time teaching. In December 2002, my book, *Graphic Design: Vision, Process, Product*, was published by Prentice Hall.

I am currently using conventional and digital media to make relief constructions, digital prints and illustrations. I also collaborate with my wife, Mary Wolf, on graphic design projects that incorporate her texts and photography about post-colonial French literature, border culture, and the city of Paris. In 2006 I exhibited my constructions and prints at Zane Bennett Contemporary Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Also in 2006, the Conroy Honors Center at New Mexico State University celebrated 15 years of my book covers and posters for Puerto del Sol. I have had twelve solo exhibitions and my work has

been included in over sixty national and international exhibitions. My work in graphic design, illustration and printmaking has been published internationally and my work is included in many corporate, institutional and private collections.