

Stacey Seiler wrote on 9 April 2019 on Facebook

I was so shocked and saddened to hear what has taken place. I met Raph at MICA in the 90s. We hung out with the same group of friends and had several classes together. It was pretty amazing to sit next to him in class. Raph drew like Michelangelo and painted with lightening speed and proficiency. It was fascinating to watch. I still to this day have never met anyone with his level of talent. I was living in New York when Raph entered the New York Academy. His work continued to flourish and amaze everyone that came into contact with it. On several occasions Raph would visit my Parsons class to speak about his work, and my students always would marvel over his ballpoint pen drawings of the sleeping subway riders with funny animals perched on their heads. They got it. Caravaggio talent in a New York context. I would often see their sketchbooks begin to fill with subway drawings after Raph's talk, hoping to one day be as good as him. His work influenced and motivated people in their own practice. It was beyond inspiring. Raph, I hope you are at peace and I hope you know how much your work made an impact on all of us.

