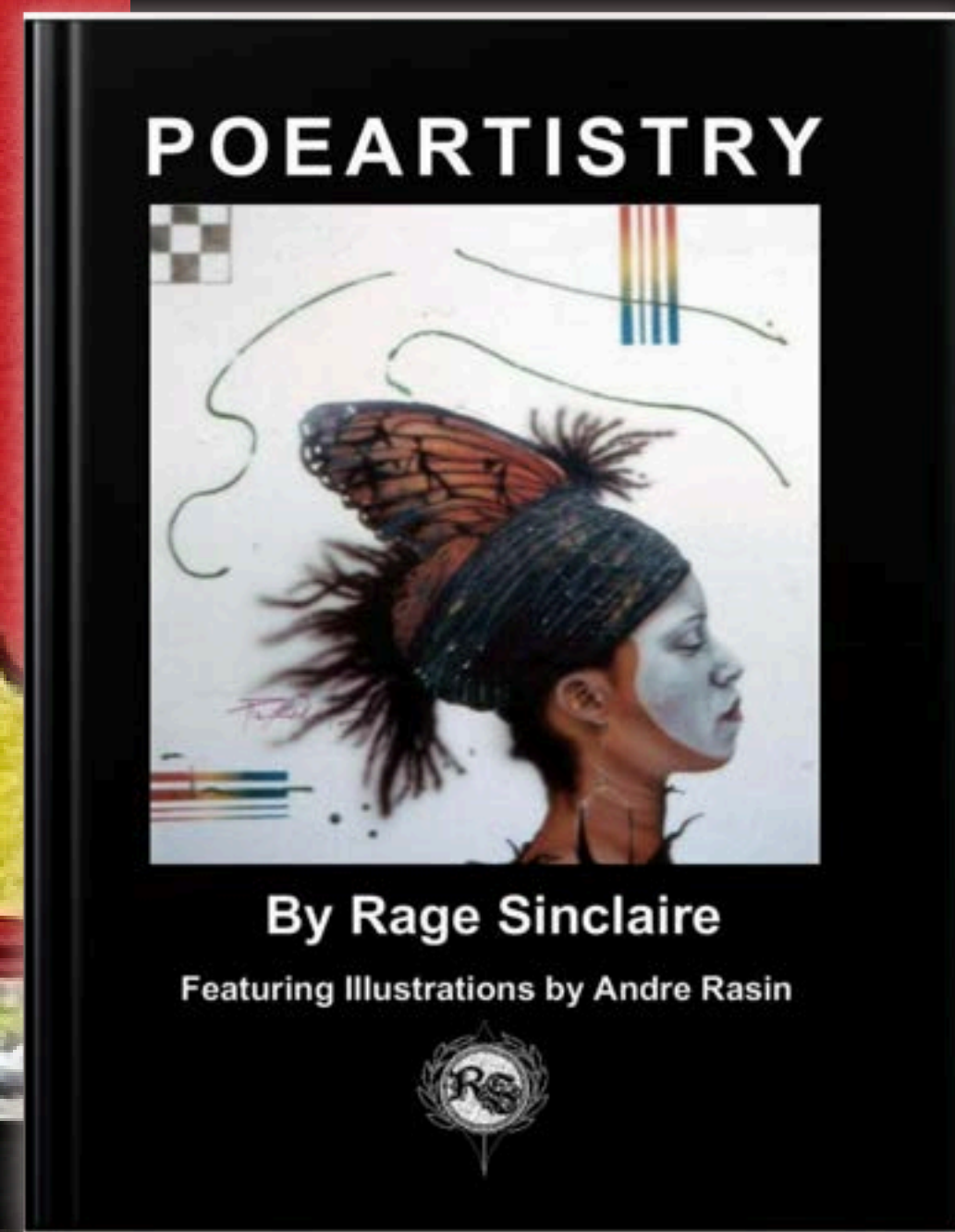
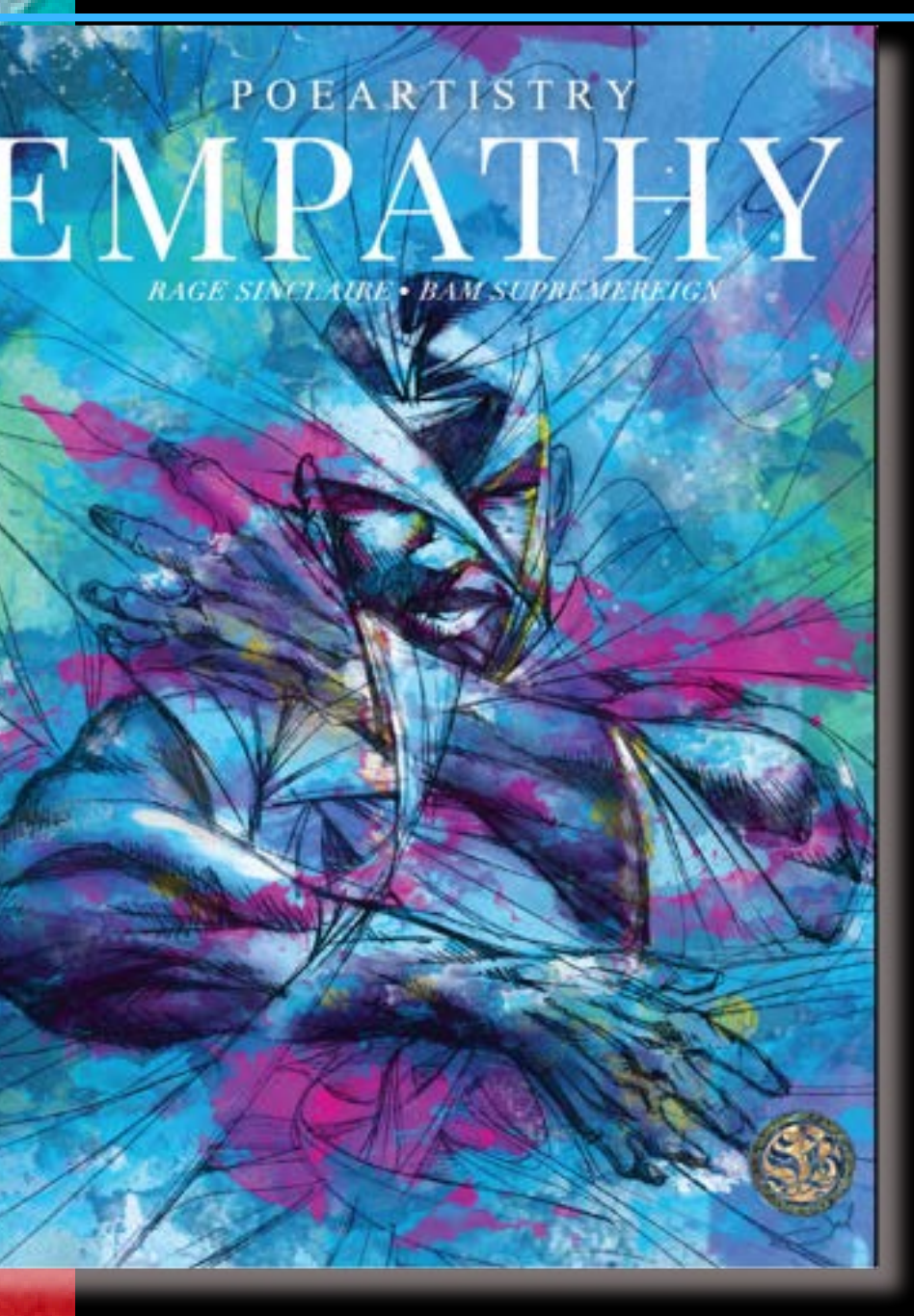




## Rage Sinclair Co-Creator of Poartistry Self-Esteem Through Self-Definition, The Art of Defining You



How does your art inspire your social work and vice versa?

As someone who practices social work, my art is pivotal in my practice. A few years ago, I co-founded **Poartistry** in an attempt to address through the arts institutional issues that affect communities. **Poartistry** is self-esteem through self-definition via art, poetry, music, and dance. By connecting to the ethereal, ambient human energy that binds us all in a reciprocal way, my poetic meditations link me to what unites and makes us human. I hope my art does the same for those who honor me by engaging with it. Social work is social welfare, therefore it moves society in a profound way. The nuances of **Poartistry** come from my time as a foster child, ward of New York State and displaced member of society that decided to say no, I won't be that person; I will be who I want to be. That is what **Poartistry** strives to promote to all that engage in it.



How have your personal life experiences challenged the status quo of social work?

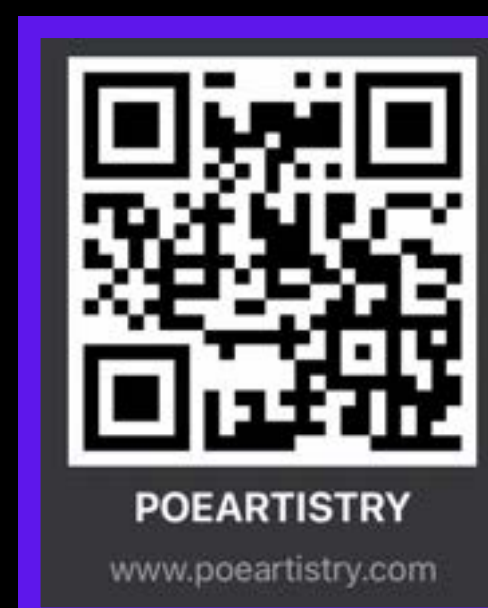
According to a study in 2024, less than 5% of children raised in foster care earn a college degree at any level. Growing up in foster care from 1976 to 1990, I refused to let similar statistics define my life. I not only earned a bachelor's degree but also a master's and two advanced degrees in educational leadership. As the child of two addicts, I faced institutionalized circumstances early on. I chose education as my defense. I left nothing to chance. I gave in to the sacrifice of time and rigor foregoing the joys that come with being on a beautiful college campus, as my undergraduate university became my full-time home and it remains an endearing part of who I am today. In my social work practice, I hope that no one would have to experience what I did, but with the disintegration of the family system, unfortunately, it persists. My tool for current generations is to fight the status quo through education. I share my story with the hope that both social workers and clients choose to embrace to finish what you start in as colorful a way as possible, no matter the obstacles.

What formula could you share with others to succeed despite circumstances beyond their control?

Stay focused on working smart. Understand that the math—your effort—never lies. Your attitude and commitment will always bring you closer to your goals. Be a person of your word, guided by hope in action. Be brave enough to live your naked truth speak to those that have less, think less and believe they are less. Let your truth lift them up. Teach them with heart and soul the option that every day gives through the life poetic to make each day wow.

From the edge of your mind to the tip of your hand, you can grip disbelief and make it disspan. You can fortify this feat in an impregnable array of kaleidoscopic prowess that may light a new day, one in which your aptitude will dictate attitudes towards preconceived notions with Viper cunning you will halt wasted mental motions, your presence will bridge the great ignorant divide and the strength of your lessons will be the Excalibur at your side.

From the poem, **A Rage Awaken**  
Featured visual artist Andre Rasin



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*"You never know how or when you'll have an impact, or how important your example can be to someone else." – Denzel Washington*