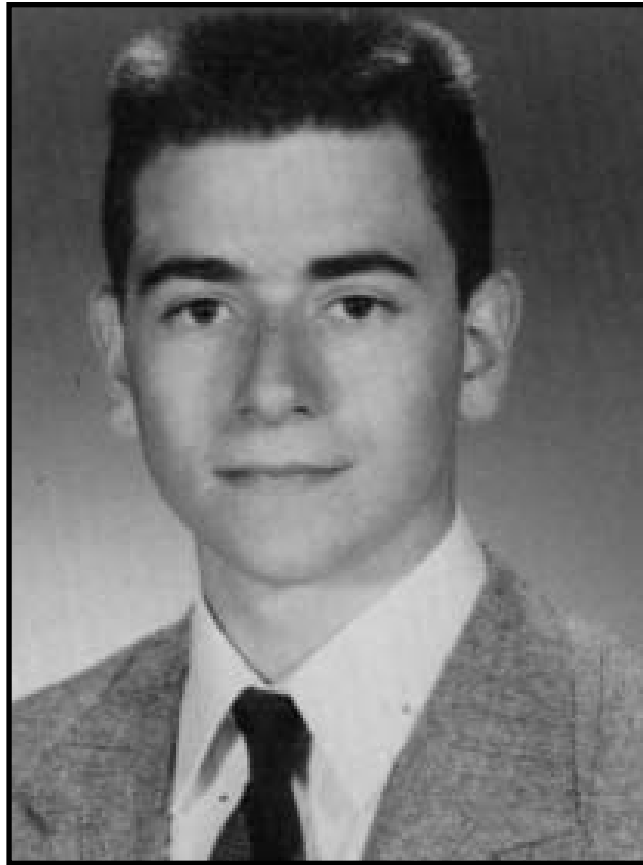


Watchung Hills Regional High School Hall of Fame



Michael Anthony Natiello
Artist, Sculptor, Festival Director
Class of 1992

Voted “Most Artistic” by his classmates, Michael went on to fulfill his senior classmates’ high expectation of him. Indeed, he left behind tangible evidence of his artistic ability: a painting in the Hills lobby and another in the Warren Township Municipal Courtroom. He pursued his fine arts studies at Syracuse University and received a Bachelor in Fine Arts from Crouse College of Arts.

Michael’s artistic talents have been employed in many ways. His illustrations have been published in numerous periodicals and magazines; his sculptures have appeared in gallery shows and exhibits. He has taught in schools from Hoboken to Corvallis, Oregon, and he has curated numerous art shows.

Michael is probably best known beyond his community for his innovative pumpkin creations, in effect, making that fleshy Halloween icon an object of national interest. Not only did he carve the world’s second largest pumpkin in both 2010 and 2011, but he also has designed, created, and set up sculpture installations at the New York Botanical Gardens. He was creative director for the “Great Jack-O’Lantern Blaze,” a land art installation of over 3,000 carved Jack-O’ Lanterns at the historic Van Cortlandt Manor, located in Croton-on-Hudson. The event drew 80,000 visitors.

This innovative and artistic display and its creator were featured in numerous magazines and in news outlets such as the *New York Times*, *New York Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *People* and *Parade*.

Mike himself has also been featured on news and TV interview segments on CBS, NBC, Fox News, PBS, and the Martha Stewart Show. His pumpkin carving clients include many “big names” in the entertainment industry.