

David Hile

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Artist Biography

David Hile grew up in Monroe, Michigan. He began his education at Monroe County Community College where he was awarded an art scholarship that paid for his first two years of studies. He then transferred to Siena Heights University in Adrian, MI where he received three art scholarships and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, Cum Laude. After pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, MI, majoring in drawing and painting Dave began his career in 1981 as a freelance commercial illustrator. Concurrently he founded Hile Design, which later became Hile Creative LLC, a leading advertising/brand development firm in Ann Arbor, MI. His illustration and agency career lasted 34 years.

After retiring from agency life in 2015 David built a home studio and began his second career as a fine artist. A year later he accepted an adjunct teaching professorship in Painting, Watercolor Painting, Illustration Techniques and Two-dimensional Design at Monroe County Community College. It was a homecoming of sorts, since MCCC was where he decided to become an artist 43 years earlier. Teaching part time offered the opportunity to give back to young aspiring artists, and he continued teaching for nearly 3 1/2 years. Dave took his "second retirement" from teaching in December, 2019 in order to devote more time to his artwork.

Artist Statement

Picasso said, "Art is the elimination of the unnecessary." Perhaps because of my background as an illustrator — where I did a lot of detailed realistic rendering — I've taken a stripped-down approach to my current work. Using graphite, white charcoal, and pastel I've developed a mostly linear style. Though simple, I aim to create fully realized works that are universally appealing, highlighting the dignity of humanity and a unity with the earth and the creatures we share the planet with. Mostly, I strive for a sense of emotion, symbol, and psychological depth — no small challenge in a mere drawing. I view my drawings not as initial sketches, but as fully-realized artistic statements equal to a painting or sculpture.

A friend recently commented on one of my drawings, and I can't state my artistic goals any better than they did:

"Nice tension between open space and intense line work. You've used a very personalized flat graphic style to portray psychological depth, an excellent accomplishment!"

My work is inspired by the late 19th and early 20th century Masters Picasso, Modigliani, Castorati and Schiele, as well as Japanese woodblock prints. In the future I plan to expand into other mediums, but for now I am happy to continue to explore my creative output through my drawings.

Education

Associate of Fine Arts, Monroe County Community College (1971–1973)

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Siena Heights University – Cum Laude (1973-1975)

Master of Fine Arts, Eastern Michigan University (1975-1978)

Select Exhibitions/Awards

2020

-“Relationships” national invitational virtual exhibition at Webster Arts of St. Louis, MO. As stated in the prospectus: "Artists are encouraged to interpret the theme of Relationships broadly, including artwork that considers relationships in all forms including human bonds, intentional communities, our relationship with other species, and/or relationships within ecosystems." (November 17 – December 31)

-“Aqua” national invitational exhibition at Core New Art Space in Lakewood, CO. As stated in the exhibit's prospectus: "While there is that gorgeous greenish-blue color that can range from vibrant to serene and all shades in between, there is also the Latin root meaning of "water". This could be the sea, rain, ponds, lakes, tears, creatures that live in or on water and an ocean of other ideas. Float towards whatever direction this river may take you because all mediums and disciplines (minus videos/installations) are encouraged." (September 11 – September 27)

-“2020 and the Challenge to Create” invitational virtual exhibit at Flatlander Galleries in Blissfield, MI. One of 26 artists invited to show artwork created during the COVID-19 pandemic (July 11 – July 31)

-“June Show” national invitation exhibition at the Jones Gallery in Kansas City, MO (June 3 – June 25)

-“Galex 54” national invitation exhibit at the Galesburg Civic Arts Center in Galesburg, ILL (March 6 – April 4)

-“The Common Cup” solo exhibit of 30 framed drawings and prints at Ann Arbor, MI coffeehouse that includes art exhibition space (January 6 – February 1)

2019

-“39th Annual Arts For Our Future” regional invitational exhibit, Temperance, MI. Received Honorable Mention award in the Drawing Category (November 4 – November 25)

-“Siena Heights Centennial Alumni Arts Exhibition” artwork accepted at three different Adrian, MI galleries:

Adrian Center for the Arts (September 16 – October 25) Klemm Gallery (October 1 – November 1)

INAI Gallery (September 16 – October 25)

-“Michigan Now: CTAC’s 2019 Juried Fine Arts exhibit” annual statewide invitational held at Crooked Tree Arts Center, Petoskey, MI
Received Honorable Mention award

-“David Hile Drawings: Nature, Emotion, Symbol” solo exhibition at Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor, MI (June 11 - July 30)

-“Upbringing” national invitational exhibit, Indiana University Kokomo Downtown Gallery, Kokomo, IN (April 5 – April 20)

-“You Can’t Touch A Ghost” Detroit regional invitational exhibit, Galleri 2987, Detroit, MI (January 19 – January 31)

2018

-“38th Annual Arts For Our Future” regional invitational exhibit, Temperance, MI.
Received 1st Place Award in the Drawing Category (November 4 – November 25)

-“O’Halloran + Hile” exhibiting along with ceramic sculptor Therese O’Halloran at the IHM Gallery, Monroe, MI (September 18 – October 28)

-“The Infinite Undoing” national invitational exhibit, Galleri 2987, Detroit, MI (April 13 – April 27)

-“Art Now: Drawing” national invitational exhibit at the Ann Arbor Art Center, Ann Arbor, MI (February 16 – March 17)

Curatorial/Presentation

2019

-“David Hile Drawings: Nature, Emotion, Symbol” art talk discussing: Background and Education, Medium and Process, Subject and Concepts, and Symbols of work from solo art exhibit at Kerrytown Concert House gallery, Ann Arbor, MI (July 28)

-“46th Annual Monroe City/County Fine Arts Council Juried Show”, judged regional show and presented awards (May 4 – May 18)