David Hile

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Artist Biography

David Hile grew up in Monroe, MI beginning 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 he 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 Dave 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, Two-dimensional Design and Independent Study at his alma mater Monroe County Community College. 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 with areas of flat color. 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 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 Casorati, Modigliani, Picasso, and Schjerfbeck, 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

Master of Fine Arts, Eastern Michigan University (1975-1978)
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Siena Heights University – Cum Laude (1973-1975)
Associate of Fine Arts, Monroe County Community College (1971–1973)

Select Exhibitions/Awards

2026

-“ARTLO The International Art Magazine” selected as Editor’s Pick for a 4-page spread in addition to the back cover of the 8th issue of this online and print art periodical based in London, England (September – November)

-”ViewPoint 58” my drawing “African Savanna Serenade” was selected for inclusion in the 58th annual juried exhibition sponsored by the Cincinnati Art Club and held at ARTclectic Art Gallery located in Cincinnati, Oh (October 2 -24)

-“Revolving Artist Exhibit” solo showing of seven select drawings at Knox Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor, MI (September 1 – October 30)

-"Summer Lovin’" my gouache painting “Summer with Friends” was jury selected into the international online group exhibit sponsored by KBM Gallery of Riverside, CA (June 20 – July 31)

-“Novum artis, issue 014” jury selected for a bi-monthly 2-page spread in an international 148-page fine arts magazine. The publication is offered both online and in print format aimed at 10,000 galleries, art curators and major collectors. Additionally, one of my drawings was highlighted on the inside front cover

-“Kingdom Animalia – 2026” my drawing “African Savanna Serenade was jury selected into the international online exhibit sponsored by Exhibitzone of BC, Canada (June 18 – August 18)

-“Inspirations 2026” my drawing “The Ornithologist’s Dream” was juried into the international online exhibition sponsored by Biafarin of Ontario, Canada (June 13 – August 13)

-“Rise & Shine - 2026” my painting “Barefoot Gardener” was jury selected for inclusion in the international online group exhibit sponsored by Exhibitzone of BC, Canada (May 14 – July 14)

-“Vintage Visionary (Artists over 50yrs)” my painting “Mallorcan Afternoon” was selected for the exhibit sponsored by the Las Laguna Art Gallery of Laguna Beach, CA (May 7 – 30)

-“Drawings and New Directions” solo exhibition of 20 drawings and select limited prints at The Eastend Arts Center Gallery located in Marshall, MI (May 4 – June 13)

-“People, Places, Things 2026” my painting “Mallorcan Afternoon” was 1 of 3 artworks selected for premiere promotion during the international online group exhibition sponsored by The Hummingbird & Dragonfly Art Gallery of Los Angeles, CA (May 2 – 31)

-“Artistic Animals 2026” my drawings “Harmony” and “African Savanna Serenade” were jury selected into the international online group exhibit sponsored by KBM Art Gallery located in Riverside, CA (March 28 – May 8)

-“ArtStar Magazine” two of my drawings were selected for inclusion in the 120-page international curated “2026 Guide to Remarkable Art” published by World Wide Art + Circle Foundation of the Arts located in Lyon, France

-“Endless Creativity 2026” my drawings “The Ornithologist’s Dream” and “Love Corp” were selected for the juried open-themed online exhibit sponsored by The Hummingbird and Dragonfly Art Gallery of Los Angeles, CA (February 21 – Continuing)

-“Stillness 2026” my drawing “Contemplation” was jury selected in the international online exhibit by Exhibizone of Vancouver BC, Canada (March 5 – May 5)

-“Romantica 2026” my drawing “The Girl, the Hummingbird and the Whippet” was jury selected in the international online exhibit asking “What does it mean to love and be loved?” sponsored by Gallerium of Vancouver BC, Canada (February 5 – March 5)

-“*Artist Closeup #38* Magazine” single-page spread published in jury selected international creative magazine published by Artistcloseup, Amsterdam, Netherlands (January 15 – Continuing)

2025

-“Spirituality 2025” my drawing “Waiting for Peace” was jury-selected for the 3rd annual international online exhibition and publication sponsored by Gallerium of Vancouver BC, Canada (November 1 – January 1 2026)

-“WIDE OPEN” my painting “Barefoot Gardener” selected as one of 63 works of art from 487 entries from 9 countries for the international online exhibition hosted by Art Fluent of Boston, MA (October 2 – Continuing)

-“Any Art, Any Time 2025” six drawings selected for an international online exhibition calling for art of any subject matter done at any point in an artist’s career. Sponsored by KBM Art Gallery of Riverside, CA (September 27 – November 14)

-“Drawings / Prints / Paintings” solo exhibition highlighting 30 works at The Gallery at Cherry Hill in Canton, MI. Most of the artworks included original drawings and giclée prints in the style I have pursued over the past 8 years however I also included several gouache paintings that I developed in 2025 (August 26 – September 21)

-“Still Life” my drawing “Still Life with Bird” was accepted in the third annual online juried exhibition sponsored by Gallerium Art Exhibitions of Vancouver BC, Canada (July 16 – September 16)

-“Top in Category for Drawing” based on five submitted drawings to Circle Foundation for the Arts “Artist of the Month” competition. Additionally, was interviewed for an online article regarding my artwork to accompany the exhibit. The gallery, located in Lyon, France supports artists worldwide through magazines, exhibits and contests (June)

-“Tranquillum 2025” my painting “Barefoot Gardener” was accepted in the annual international juried online exhibition, publication and sales sponsored by Gallerium Art Exhibitions of Vancouver BC, Canada (May 28 – July 28)

-“Pastels” four drawings selected for the juried international online exhibition sponsored by The Hummingbird & Dragonfly Art Gallery located in Los Angeles, CA (April 5 – May1)

-“EXPO 44” one of 15 artists selected for this juried competition, a digital exhibit sponsored by B. J. Spoke Gallery of Huntington, New York, I exhibited 6 drawings. Juror Emily Olek is a Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Drawing and Prints at the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), NY (February 1 – March 31)

-“Love 2025” my drawing “Embrace” was selected for an annual juried international online exhibition sponsored by Exhibizone of Vancouver BC, Canada (February 1 – March 31)

-“Artistic Animals” 5 drawings accepted in a juried international online exhibit sponsored by KBM Gallery of Riverside, CA (February 1 – March 14)

2024

-“Contemporary Works on Paper” juried international exhibit sponsored by Western Wyoming Community College Gallery, Rock Springs, WY (December 13 2024 – March 7 2025)

-“Holiday Artists Market 2024” three drawings selected for seasonal exhibit sponsored by The Guild of Artists and Artisans, Ann Arbor, MI (November 15 – December 21)

-“2024 National Multi-Media Juried Art Show” at the Wilson Arts Center in Wilson, NC (October 10 – November 3)

-“Seasons: Fall – 24” international juried exhibition sponsored by Exhibizone, an online gallery based in Toronto, Ontario, Canada). All selected artworks and artist are published in an exhibition catalog available online. (September 21 – December 21)

-“A2AC Townie Shop” two drawings accepted for a special summer sales event sponsored by The Ann Arbor Art Center, Ann Arbor, MI (June 14 – September 15)

-“Carrigan Café: Art and Coffee” for the 2nd year in a row, exhibited 19 framed original drawings and prints for sale at well-known coffee and pastry shop in Saline, MI (June 1 – June 29)

-“37th Annual McNeese Works on Paper Exhibition” juried national exhibit sponsored by the Grand Gallery, Shearman Fine Arts Annex, McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA (March 21 – May 3)

-“Art 4 Animals” six drawings were selected for Red Bluff Gallery’s juried online exhibition. Proceeds from the show aided the Accidental Animal Rescue Center located in Red Bluff, CA (March 1, 2024 – March 1, 2025)

-“Anything Goes Exhibition” juried regional exhibit sponsored by The Guild of Artists and Artisans at the Gutman Gallery, Ann Arbor, MI (January 26 – March 2)

-“Emotional Thresholds Exhibition” international juried online show sponsored by Art Fluent of Boston, MA (January 12 – ongoing)

-“Artlink Midwest Regional Exhibition” juried twelve-state show in the Artlink Contemporary Gallery located in Fort Wayne, IN (January 4 – February 4)

2023

-“Michigan Guild of Artists & Artisans Holiday Sale” two drawings selected for this annual sale at the Gutman Gallery in Ann Arbor, MI (November 23 – December 24)

-“Arts For Our Future” two drawings selected for this regional exhibit at the Bedford Branch Library in Temperance, MI. Received Honorable Mention for my drawing “Barnyard Parade”
(November 5 – November 26)

-“Ann Arbor Art Center’s Holiday Sale” two framed prints included in annual sale, Ann Arbor, MI
(November 3 – December 30)

-“Spirituality 2023” juried international online exhibition sponsored by Gallerium Art Exhibitions of Vancouver BC, Canada. The exhibit also included a printed catalog. (October 20 – December 20)

-“Carrigan Café: Coffee goes better with ART” exhibited 18 framed drawing prints for sale at well-known coffee and pastry shop in Saline, MI (September 1 – September 30)

-“Creative License” Art Fluent’s juried online exhibition. 63 artworks were selected from 532 entries from 9 different countries. (August 10 – ongoing)

-“ViewPoint 55” national juried art exhibition sponsored by the Cincinnati Art Club and hosted by Eisele Gallery, one of the most respected fine art galleries in the Midwest. (September 8 – September 30)

-“Drawing as High Art” solo retrospective exhibition of 40 framed original drawings and limited prints at Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor, MI (June 9 – August 18)

-“50 Years as an Artist” visiting artist exhibit and presentation at Monroe County Community College, Monroe, MI (April 19 – May 19)

-“Anything Goes” regional juried all media exhibition at the Gutman Gallery, Ann Arbor, MI (February 17 – March 25)

-“14th Annual Drawing Discourse” international juried drawing exhibition at the University of North Carolina, Asheville. Drawing “Adoring Nature” included in published catalog (January 3 – February 10)

2022

-“Celebrate Art” two drawings selected for this national 2D juried exhibition at the MVA Gallery (Modern Visual Arts), Bethlehem, PA (December 3 – January 5, 2023)

-“Members Only Holiday Market” provided three framed original drawings to the Gutman Gallery, Ann Arbor, MI (November 25 – December 30)

-“November Exhibition” Chris Nordin Gallery Group Show in Ann Arbor, MI (November 18 – December 30)

-“100th All Media Exhibition” juried competition inviting all artists from MI, OH, PA, IN, IL MN and WI, hosted by the Ann Arbor Art Center, Ann Arbor, MI (November 18 – December 30)

-“Holiday Shop Sale” submitted three framed works to the Ann Arbor Art Center, Ann Arbor, MI (October, November, December)

-“Chris Nordin Gallery” participated in fourth group exhibit in Ann Arbor, MI (September 23 – October 21)

-“Chris Nordin Gallery” participated in third group exhibit in Ann Arbor, MI (August 5 – August 30)

-“Midsummer Opening Chris Nordin Gallery” exhibited three drawings in group multimedia show, Ann Arbor, MI (July 8 – August 4)

-“Grand reopening of the Ann Arbor Art Center” exhibited 5 framed drawings during inaugural 2022 opening of the Ann Arber Art Center after a $1.2 million expansion including a new art gallery (May 20 – July 8)

-“Grand Opening Chris Nordin Gallery” one of nine artists exhibiting at the inaugural show of a new art gallery in Ann Arbor, MI (May 20 – June 30)

-“Liturgical and Sacred Art 2022” national juried competition at the M.G. Nelson Family Gallery at the Springfield Art Association in Springfield, IL (April 20 – May 28) Received Best of Show award

-“March Group Show” national juried competition at Jones Gallery, Kansas City, MO (March 2 – March 24)

-“2022 Anything Goes” regional juried art exhibition at the Gutman Gallery in Ann Arbor, MI (January 28 – March 5)

2021

-“Emotions 2021” international juried exhibit that encouraged artists to provide artworks that display human feelings and emotions. Selected artworks published in *The Book of Art* publication and showcased in an online exhibition by Gallerium Art Exhibitions of Vancouver BC, Canada (January 15 – February 15, 2022)

-“2021 Holiday Shop” 5 framed drawings included in the annual holiday show and sale at the Ann Arbor Art Center, Ann Arbor, MI (November 15 – December 30)

-“Warmth of Autumn” juried exhibition at the Kansas City Stockyards Gallery in KC, MO (October 15 - November 12)

-“92nd Annual Michigan Contemporary Art Exhibition” juried competition at the Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon MI (September 23 – November 10)

-“Brand 49 Annual Juried Exhibition of Works on Paper” at the Brand Library and Art Center in Glendale, CA (September 11 – October 29)

-“The Artists’ Gallery” two-person show exhibiting along with painter Thomas Rosenbaum at The Artists’ Gallery, Ann Arbor, MI (September 4 – September 30)

-“September Group Show” national juried exhibit at the Jones Gallery, Kansas City, MO (September 1 – September 23)

-“July Group Show” national juried exhibition at the Jones Gallery in Kansas City, MO (June 30 – July 29)

-“Five Points Gallery 2021 Juried Exhibition” international show at Five Points Gallery, Torrington, CT (July 2 – August 13)

-“May Group Show” national juried exhibition at the Jones Gallery in Kansas City, MO (April 28 – May 27)

-“Sky’s the Limit” international juried all-media exhibit at Las Laguna Gallery in Laguna Beach, CA (April 1 – April 30)

-“Love is Everything” national juried exhibit at the Kansas City Stockyards Gallery, KC, MO (February 19 – March 13)

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

2020

-“Relationships” national juried online exhibition at Webster Arts, St. Louis, MO (November 17 – December 31)

-“Aqua” national juried exhibition at Core New Art Space in Lakewood, CO. (September 11 – September 27)

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

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

-“Galex 54” national juried exhibition at the Galesburg Civic Arts Center, Galesburg, IL (March 6 – April 4)

-“The Common Cup” invitational 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 juried exhibit, Temperance, MI. Received Honorable Mention award in the Drawing Category (November 4 – November 25)

-"Michigan Now: CTAC's 2019 Juried Fine Arts exhibit" annual statewide show held at Crooked Tree Arts Center, Petoskey, MI. Received Honorable Mention Award (September 21 – November 9)

-"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)

-"David Hile Drawings: Nature, Emotion, Symbol" invitational solo exhibit displaying 35 original drawings and prints, Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor, MI (June 11 - July 30)

-"Upbringing" national juried exhibit, Indiana University Kokomo Downtown Gallery, Kokomo, IN (April 5 – April 20)

-"You Can't Touch A Ghost" regional juried exhibition, Galleri 2987, Detroit, MI (January 19 – January 31)

2018

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

-"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 juried exhibit, Galleri 2987, Detroit, MI (April 13 – April 27)

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

Curatorial/Presentation

2026

-"ARTLO The International Art Magazine" selected as Editor's Pick for a 4-page spread in addition to the back cover of the 8th issue of this online and print art periodical based in London, England (September – November)

-"Novum Artis, issue 014" jury selected for a bi-monthly 2-page spread in an international 148-page fine arts magazine. The publication is offered both online and in print format aimed at 10,000 galleries, art curators and major collectors. Additionally, one of my drawings was highlighted on the inside front cover

-"ArtStar Magazine" two of my drawings were selected for inclusion in the 120-page international curated "2026 Guide to Remarkable Art" published by World Wide Art + Circle Foundation of the Arts located in Lyon, France

-"*Artist Closeup #38* Magazine" single-page spread published in jury selected international creative magazine published by Artistcloseup, Amsterdam, Netherlands (January 15 – Continuing)

2025

-“Creative Insight” video produced in conjunction with my solo exhibit at The Village Theater Gallery at Cherry Hill covering my background as an artist, my process and what I hope to achieve with my art https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6o8jWQ6P0k

-Interviewed and published in online article regarding my artwork to accompany the exhibit “Artist of the Month” sponsored by Circle Foundation for the Arts, located in Lyon, France

-Painting “Barefoot Gardener” published in an online and print catalog as part of the “Tranquillum 2025” international online exhibition sponsored by Gallerium Art Exhibitions, Ontario, Canada

2024

-Drawing “Harmony” published in an online and print catalog as part of the “Seasons: Fall - 24” international online exhibition sponsored by Exhibizone, Ontario, Canada

2023

-“Visiting Artist Exhibit and Presentation” at Monroe County Community College, Monroe, MI. Exhibited 10 framed drawings and prints and presented “50 Years as an Artist” which covered my art career beginning as a freshman in collage through my completion of my BFA degree, followed by my MFA degree in drawing and painting. I then covered my 30+ career as a commercial illustrator and finished with my current pursuit as a fine artist beginning with my retirement in 2015. (April 19 – May 19 exhibit)

-“14th Annual Drawing Discourse” international juried drawing exhibition at the University of North Carolina, Asheville. My drawing “Adoring Nature” included in published catalog (January 3 – February 10)

-“*Artist Closeup #38* Magazine” single-page spread published in jury selected international creative magazine published by Artistcloseup, Amsterdam, Netherlands (January 15 – Continuing)

2022

-“Portraits of Our Time” - served as judge for a photography competition open to three classes of entry: high school students, college students and the general public. The contest was sponsored by the *One Book One Community* program sponsored by Monroe County Community College, Monroe, MI. Judges considered composition, framing, lighting, and creativity in addressing the theme reflecting how the world has changed due to the Covid-19 pandemic (Contest ran from February 1 – March 14, with winners announced March 25)

2021

-Drawing “Tribulation” published in *The Book of Art* as part of the “Emotions 2021” international online exhibition sponsored by Gallerium-art, Ontario, Canada

-Drawing “Angel of the Rescued Nest” along with Artist’s Statement published in 130-page exhibition catalog from the Brand 49 Annual National Juried Exhibition of Works on Paper at the Brand Library and Art Center in Glendale, CA

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 exhibition and presented awards (May 4 – May 18)