

## David Gista

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David Gista's work features sweeping backgrounds, waterfalls of paint and silhouetted, isolated figures; more often than not depicted as if walking away from the viewer. As Gista explains in an interview with F News magazine: "Many things attract me towards showing the backs of people. It relates to the ambivalence of invisible and visible, presence and absence, being here and going away. It is an intimate feeling, being here and not here".

Gista, whose works have ranged from large politically-charged pieces to intimate reflections on the obsolescence and fragility of memory (one serie was painted entirely on outdated floppy discs), strives to avert any notion of 'artistic narcissism' in his pieces: "I see many artists pursuing a very narrow context instead of a universal context."

In embracing this universal context, it is common for the viewer to experience a sense of sadness; the figures seem to hold an uncertain relationship to the spaces they inhabit.

Notions of 'belonging' are central to Gista's conceptual framework. Yet despite his love of ideas and dialogue, Gista does not usually begin a painting with a preconceived concept:

"I would rather play with the physical properties of paint and set the conceptualizing aside. I pretend that I don't have a concept... and I find that I say more and it's more subtle. Art is about mystery and you don't want to kill away the part that you are awakening... Some things are best left in the air."

The deep recesses of Gista's libraries glow with the promise of revelation and connection. Towering bookshelves refer to Gista's inherited passion for books: "For me books are really a presence. Books are a place. I'm living in or among them. I have an uncle who is a famous collector of valuable books. He lives among books in shelves so tall they are like skyscrapers. It affected me as a child, it was like a city of books."

In Gista's paintings, the brightly coloured spines of these volumes infuse their contents with vitality and sharpness.

### BIOGRAPHY

Born 18th March 1964, David currently lives between Chicago and Paris.

### EDUCATION

Graduates from the Beaux-Arts School of Paris, 1990

Studies at Bezalel, Jerusalem

Studies at Parsons School from New York in Paris

### EXHIBITIONS

2017

Vendome Museum, France

Thomas Masters Gallery, Chicago

2016

Startup Art Fair, Chicago, IL USA

2015

Rendez vous yesterday, Thomas Masters Gallery, Chicago, IL USA

Startup Art Fair, San Francisco, CA USA

Obsolète collection, Campagn&rsquo;art, Dollon, France

Galerie Carla Milivinti, Blois, France

Eglise Saint-Etienne (with Francois Weil) &ndash; Beaugency, France

&ldquo;Fictions&rdquo; Médiathèque de Montoire-sur le loir, France

2014

Exhibition "Bibliothèques Interieures" at Envie d'art Gallery, Paris

2013

Exhibition "Mysterious Island" at Thomas Masters Gallery

2012

Painting workshops in the Loire Valley of France and has staged a mini retrospective of his work at his gallery in Glencoe

Affordable Art Fair, Milan and London

2011

Envie d'Art galleries, Paris 7 & London

2010

Affordable Art Fair, Brussels and London

Art Chicago

2009

Affordable Art Fair, Brussels, London, New York

"Art Chicago", Thomas Masters gallery

2008

Form Art Fair, London

Affordable Art Fair, London, Amsterdam

Glasgow Art Fair

"Flame and Flamenco", the Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago

"Fictions", College of Lake County, Illinois

Thomas Masters gallery, Chicago

Art London, London  
Slick Art Fair, Paris  
"Art Francais", The Art Center of Highland Park  
Wit gallery, Lennox, MA  
Envie d'art gallery, Paris  
Rudnik-Solomon gallery, Sacramento, CA  
2007  
"Chance meeting", Thomas Masters gallery, Chicago  
LIMN gallery, San Francisco  
"7even", Think Art, Chicago  
2006  
"Stranger in a Strange land", Thomas Masters gallery, Chicago  
"GO!", Friedland/Rivault Gallery, Paris  
2005  
"Silence on rêve", Friedlan/Rivault gallery, Paris  
"The blue period", Thomas Masters gallery, Chicago  
"Aparte" print show, Chicago  
"French flair", Suburban Fine Art Center, Highland Park, IL  
2004  
Friedland/Rivault gallery, Paris  
CCT gallery, Chicago  
Veridian gallery, New York  
University of Illinois at Chicago, "Art Lounge" (UIC)  
Mornea gallery, Evanston IL  
Feltre School, Chicago  
2003  
LIPA gallery, Summer summit, Chicago  
TO BE ART gallery, St Barthelemy, West Indies  
Faculty show, Evanston Art Center, Chicago  
2002  
Hedaes Sevira gallery, Paris  
"Aparte" / "Pleines formes", Nomade gallery, Paris  
Darthea Speyer gallery, Paris  
Commission for 274 digital paintings - Hotel Sofitel, Chicago  
Duke University, Durham, North Carolina  
2001  
Cueto gallery, Puerto Rico  
Courant d'art gallery, Paris  
University Club, Chicago  
St Mary's University, Winona, Minnesota  
"317", SFAC, Highland Park, IL  
"Quartiers d'ete au St James", Bordeaux, France  
ART OPEN, Chicago  
Chicago's artist month: featured for the "face to face" event  
"Confrontations", Darthea Speyer gallery, Paris  
2000  
Darthea Speyer gallery, Paris  
Espace Paul Ricard, Paris  
"French painters", Cultural Center of Pegu, South Korea  
1998  
Darthea Speyer gallery, Paris  
Zolla-Lieberman gallery, Chicago  
7/8 barmherzigkeit gallery, Hamburg  
1999  
Espace d'art contemporain, Juvisy, France  
Suzanne Tarasieve gallery, Barbizon, France  
Van Hoeck gallery, Paris  
Zolla-Lieberman gallery, Chicago  
1997  
New World gallery, Dusseldorf  
Gary Marks gallery, Chicago  
7/8 barmherzigkeit gallery, Hamburg  
"Salon de la Jeune Peinture", Paris  
"Portrait a la carte", Area gallery, Paris  
D Club - Lausanne, Switzerland