

IAN DAVIS, U.S.A

A move away from reality to a more surreal state, is ongoing in Ian Davis' (b. 1972, Indianapolis, US) eerily prescient dystopian visions. His work charts the follies of man and his compositions circle around repetition & unplanned narratives creating humorous and downright surreal settings.

Davis chronicles moments of human gatherings, often immediately before or after an event. As highly condensed and finely rendered his compositions are, nothing is revealed about the triggers or the aftermath. Instead Davis prefers to allow for an element of ambiguity concerning his visual imagery, first setting the stage and then allowing a recurrent activity to unfold within its environs.

The identity of the tall, lanky men, who almost always appear in dark suits or lab coats, also remains obscure. They are faceless, supra-individual figures – placeholders of a bureaucratic society. These bureaucrats never turn up on their own. They come in herds and packs, and as such the artist likes to arrange them somewhat ornamentally. Many of Davis' works feature enormous spaces filled with repetitive geometrical details, such as the vast rows of computer banks or dining tables, which evoke the tedium and drudgery of present-day industry.

Rooted in meticulous, intricate drawings, Davis' open-ended narratives take place within a looming apocalypse, communicating the collective anxiety of contemporary society, grappling with a moment of overwhelming political turmoil.



IAN DAVIS

EDUCATION

- 1994 BFA Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
2005 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *GOD'S EYE VIEW*, Nicodim, Los Angeles
2022 *The Mass Ornament*, Galerie Judin, Berlin
2018 *2nd Dark Age*, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2016 *Expert Advice*, Josh Lilley Gallery, London
2014 *Rituals*. New Paintings, Leslie Tonkonow Artworks + Projects, New York, NY
2012 *Jewel Sermons*. New Paintings, Leslie Tonkonow Artworks + Projects, New York, NY
2010 *Faith in the Future*, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
2009 *Strange Geometry*, Leslie Tonkonow Artworks + Projects, New York, NY
2007 *Ian Davis*, Leslie Tonkonow Artworks + Projects, New York, NY
2006 *The Great Divide*, Acuna-Hansen Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2000 *Ian Davis*, Art One Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
1999 *Paintings and Drawings*, Art One Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
1998 *Eight Million Stories*, New School for the Arts, Scottsdale, AZ; Art One Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *18th Istanbul Biennial: The Three-Legged Cat*, Zihni Han
Bombois by Anholt, Galerie Judin, Berlin
2022 *Liminal Spaces: Galerie ISA, Mumbai*
2021 *Time Takes a Cigarette*, Josh Lilley Gallery, London
Gifts from the Flat Files, Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque, NM
2020 *Majeure Force: Part Two*, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2019 *Go Ahead: Stories of Location and Belonging*, Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque, NM
Stains on a Decade, Josh Lilley Gallery, London
We Contain Multitudes, Galerie ISA, Mumbai
2017 *Apocalypse Summer*, ltd los angeles, Los Angeles, CA
True Lies, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2013 *50 Gifts for 50 Years*, Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, NE
Peekskill Project V, Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, Peekskill, New York, NY
2012 *Collapse*, RH Gallery, New York, NY

- Oppenheimer@20*, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS
Corporations Are People Too, Winkleman Gallery, New York, NY
- 2011 *Streams of Consciousness: The Histories, Mythologies, and Ecologies of Water*,
 Salina Art Center, KS
- 2009 *I Thought Our Worlds Were the Same*, Zeitgeist Gallery, Nashville, TN
- 2008 *The Freedom Centre: 'This Show Will Change Your Life!'*, Hales Gallery, London
Utopia/Dystopia, Leslie Tonkonow Artworks + Projects, New York, NY
Maritime: Ships, Pirates, and Disasters, Contemporary Art Galleries, University of
 Connecticut, Storrs, CT
 The Colonial Show, Second Street Gallery, Charlottesville, VA
- 2007 *Works from the Permanent Collection*, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland
 Park, KS
Block Party II: An Exhibition of Drawings, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Sheldon Survey: An Invitational, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, Lincoln, NE
- 2006 *25 BOLD MOVES*, House of Campari, Los Angeles, CA
Reality Effect, Santa Ana College, Santa Ana, CA
- 2004 *Miscegenation, The Chocolate Factory*, Phoenix, AZ
Merry/Peace, Sideshow, Brooklyn, NY
Born in the U.S.A., Galerie Art One, Zurich
- 2003 *Group Show*, GRA Gallery, New York, NY
Group Show, Fugitive Art Space, Nashville, TN
- 2002 *Group Show*, GRA Gallery, New York, NY
- 2001 *Above Ground*, Dam, Stuhltrager, Brooklyn, NY
- 1999 *Horror, 381g*, San Francisco, CA
Three Painters, 381g, San Francisco, CA
- 1998 *Group Show*, Whole Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1997 *Four*, 111 Minna Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1996 *Group Show*, Artworks Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1995 *Transitions*, Arizona State University West Gallery, Phoenix, AZ
- 1994 *Painting and Sculpture*, Step Gallery 9999, Tempe, AZ
Joe Robbins, Ian Davis, Matthew Kruse, Step Gallery 709, Tempe, AZ

AWARDS

- 2017 Residency, Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque, NM
- 2012 New York Foundation for the Arts, Artist's Fellowship, New York, NY
 The MacDowell Colony Artist Residency, Peterborough, NH
- 2001 Stonehouse Residency for the Contemporary Arts, Miramonte, CA
- 2000 Arizona Commission for the Arts, Fine Arts Grant, Phoenix, AZ

PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 Ian Davis: The Mass Ornament. Edited by Juerg Judin and Kay Matthis Karstens. Text by
 Krist Gruijthuijsen. Exh. cat. Galerie Judin, Berlin. Cologne: Verlag der Buchhandlung

Walther und Franz König

- 2019 We Contain Multitudes: Ali Bansisadr, Jules de Balincourt, Amy Cutler, Ian Davis, Maryam Hoseini, Matthew Ronay. Exh. cat. Galerie Isa, Mumbai. Mumbai: Prodon
- 2007 Ian Davis: Paintings. With a conversation between Leslie Tonkonow and Ian Davis. Exh. cat. Leslie Tonkonow Artworks + Projects, New York
- The Colonial Show: Calvin Burton, Ian Davis, Omer Fast, Matthew Fisher, Mark Wagner, Kate Woodliff. Texts by Leah Stoddard and Richard Guy Wilson. Exh. cat. Second Street Gallery, Charlottesville

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS, USA
- Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO, USA
- Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, NE, USA
- Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi, India
- Harvard Business School, Cambridge, MA, USA
- Progressive Corporation, Mayfield Village, OH, USA
- Wellington Management Company, Boston, MA, USA
- Fidelity Investments, Boston, MA, USA
- The Saatchi Gallery collection, London, UK