

David Hamma

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B I O G R A P H Y

My work is made by a combination of drawing, painting and printmaking processes including silkscreen and intaglio (drypoint, etching). I work out of my home in Portland, Oregon where I have been living since May of 2007. Prior to this I lived on Maui where I moved in 1999 from Los Angeles where I was born and raised, later studying art (printmaking, drawing, painting, sculpture) at Pasadena City College.

In 1992, I chose to put aside further formal art training in order to pursue my other great love, music. I played locally and nationally, releasing several albums, some on my own Skinny Chest label, founded in 1995 as an art/literary/music journal.

In my work, there is always an attempt to draw as direct a connection as possible between the internal world and the natural environment. This is done through an intentionally limited vocabulary of lines, circles, ellipses, etc., which seem to suggest the various stages of convergence and divergence, in natural relationships and cycles.

Memory plays a part in these cycles and in its randomness, can suggest many strange and curious connections. I have been conscious of making a space for this in my work. Miniature scenes and objects float amid the larger composition, breaking it up and triggering further associations. The work is meant to be simultaneously vast and intimate, macroscopic and microscopic: imaginary flowers; blooms wrested from dreams; ancient fears (how do you draw these?); floating utensils and other implements; not to mention a good measure of nonsense.

In work such as *Fresh Everything* and *Blood Caps*, I explored the idea of alternate vocabularies: how to speak of the landscape without drawing the trees; how to evoke the soil without painting the mountains; how to say something personal without confessing anything; how to demonstrate wholeness, interconnectedness, without preaching or being dogmatic. These are problems that I continue to face when making pictures.

In the skull paintings of late, I've been returning to a more representational style. A means of capturing the vividness of a waking dream. I find it unnerving that our skulls can be so close at hand, so evident under our skins and yet so otherworldly. The ethereality of skulls is belied by their (awful) commonness.

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E X H I B I T I O N S

Spores and Chores New Paintings by David Hamma

Sydney's, Portland, Oregon
September 1 – 30, 2008

The Contemporary Museum at First Hawaiian Center Tenth Anniversary Exhibition

The Contemporary Museum at
First Hawaiian Center, Honolulu, Hawaii
October 13, 2006 – January 30, 2007

Recent Work by David Hamma

Sutrov Gallery, Paia, Hawaii
April 8 – 30, 2006

Cafe Marc Aurel Group Exhibits (*ongoing*)

Cafe Marc Aurel, Wailuku, Hawaii

Solo Exhibition:

A Year Of Sundays drawings • paintings • prints

The Contemporary Museum at
First Hawaiian Center, Honolulu, Hawaii
October 7, 2005 – January 31, 2006

Solo Exhibition:

A Year Of Sundays drawings • paintings • prints

Hui No'eau, Makawao, Hawaii
June 4 – July 10, 2005

Instrument

Hui No'eau, Makawao, Hawaii
March 19 – May 21, 2005

Honolulu Printmakers 77th Annual Juried Exhibition

Honolulu Printmakers, Honolulu, Hawaii
February 24 – March 18, 2005

Proof Positive

Hui No'eau, Makawao, Hawaii
December 17, 2004 – February 5, 2005

Good Things Small Packages

Maui Arts & Cultural Center
Schaefer International Gallery
November 16 – December 19, 2004

Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center Members' Exhibit

Juror's Choice Award
Hui No'eau, Makawao, Hawaii
September 18 – November 14, 2004

Friends of the Contemporary Museum Art Sale 2003

The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii
November 23, 2003

Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center Members' Exhibit

Juror's Choice Award
Hui No'eau, Makawao, Hawaii
May – June 2003

Art Maui – 2006, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001

Maui Arts & Cultural Center
Schaefer International Gallery

Artists of Hawaii – 2002

Honolulu Academy of Arts, Honolulu, Hawaii

Printmaking Exhibition

Art Center, Makawao, Hawaii
June 2001

Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center Members' Exhibit

Juror's Choice Award
Hui No'eau, Makawao, Hawaii
May – June 2001

Group Show with Erica Rawlings and Steven Salardino

South Pasadena Mercantile,
South Pasadena, California
April 1999

XOXO, A Group Show with Peter Gee and others

iBrowse Coffeehouse
Alhambra, California
February 1998 & 1999

Various Private Collections