

David Shillinglaw

David Shillinglaw (1982-), the Margate based artist born to British parents in Saudi Arabia, here presents his latest work, an installation called 'Human Soup'. The composition typifies the artist's effusive character, experience and outlook.

'Human Soup' is an ongoing body of work that mixes drawing, painting, collage and discovered objects in a way that describes the construction and fragmentation of human experience. (see more below).

"What's Your Poison?" collection incorporated in this recent body of work draws inspiration from a travelling medicine show, offering potions and cures. The notion of poison is something familiar and universal, something we all avoid, but also sometimes enjoy. Poison can be anything, and is only defined by its dosage, the work plays with the nature of human consumption; how we are constantly consuming to feel better, stronger, higher... joining the dots between the literal and the figurative, in which a bottle of courage sits next to a bottle of tears.

Thirty-six-year-old David has worked as an artist since graduating from Central St Martin's in 2002. Though has reflected in a recent interview about first creating art at four years old, then influenced by ancient Egypt.

David's work ranges from studio to street art: from small handmade book drawings and paintings on canvas to large scale wall murals. He is also a skilled sculptor and ceramicist.

When interviewed recently by the Turner Barnes Gallery, David referenced among his influences aspects of international travel, culture, and food. He cites artists, authors, philosophers and musicians among his mentors. These range from El Greco to Simon Evans, William Burroughs to Richard Brautigan, and Miles Davis to Kurt Cobain. As such, he has applied his work to theatre set designs and album cover designs. His preference is to work in the primary colours of red, blue and yellow and bright colours.

One critic described him as 'a mind adventurer, where the left half of the brain explores the right one. Unanswered, impulsive, instinctive and restless: he doesn't paint or draw, he creates time. He is not afraid to humanise his art. He incorporates the perceptual concern of his journey as a man with his

own sense of humour. The result is a powerful and fresh interpretation of everyday reality in which the works mirror the artist and his experience. His art has the appeal of a friendly, subtle, self-effacing folk inspired Pop that presents the ordinary while delighting the viewer by showing them that you have your best conversation with yourself.' Some of the character of his work is captured in his book published in 2012, 'The Dance of 1000 Faces'.

Past commissions include illustrations for The British Council Annual Report, murals for Converse, the Dulwich Picture House cinema and a limited-edition bag for the French designer, Agnes b. More recently, he has worked for a Scotch whisky company and Facebook.

On many occasions, he has worked in cooperation, mostly to raise money for charity, with artists such as Antony Gormley, Anish Kapoor, Gavin Turk, Martin Creed and Tracey Emin. Charities close to David's heart include Alzheimer's, mental health, homelessness, and cancer. He has also raised money through the sale of his work for the Old Vic Theatre and a welfare education centre in Devon. Soon, he will be working in Ethiopia to raise awareness for water projects.

In the last decade, he has exhibited in galleries in the USA, Europe, Asia and Africa including the Saatchi Gallery. This year David chose to be solely represented by the long-established Turner Barnes Gallery in Essex who are exhibiting on Stand F3 at the Affordable Art Fair. The Turner Barnes Gallery, which is based near Chelmsford and Shenfield, exhibits at fairs in New York, Hong Kong and Singapore, as this autumn in Miami. In their galleries, they also represent the Connor Brothers, Dan Baldwin and Emma Hack.

David's art has been widely reviewed in the international press including the Financial Times, The Guardian, Evening Standard, Metro newspaper, Design Week and i-D Magazine. He has been interviewed in The Independent and the Huffington Post. More recently, his work was illustrated in 'The Buyer's Guide to Buying Art'.

Within the market, David's work has been recorded as selling in galleries for prices ranging from £2,000-5,000 for original works and £70-150 for prints. At auction, one of his charity works attained 56 bids selling within estimate alongside works by celebrated artists. His work has also been auctioned in France. Even more impressively, one of David's murals currently adorns a museum in Munich.

David's work has also been seen publicly as murals in Paris, London, Venice, Amsterdam, Vancouver, and Valencia as well as Kosovo, Gambia and Mexico. At various times, his art has appeared on t-shirts and books.

David Shillinglaw has achieved over 20,000 followers on Social Media.



Turner Barnes Gallery are pleased to present a Collection of work by David Shillinglaw.

Human Soup is rush hour in any city. Human Soup is a boat full of migrants crossing the ocean. Human Soup is an overcrowded beach full of humans on holiday cooking in the sun. Human Soup is a border control guard stamping passport allowing people in or out. Human soup is a landfill site or an ocean full of plastic bottles and flip-flops. We are croutons floating in this broth. Planet Earth is a boiling bowl of Homo sapiens soup.

The motivation to make art is an ongoing, growing obsession with how to capture or conjure the universal themes of what it means to be alive in the human hive. There are a universal set of ingredients that we all consume and produce. Every day, we fill ourselves up and empty ourselves out, from the highest point of royalty and heads of states. To the lowest lives of the displaced or imprisoned, we all suffer the same appetites and desires, fears and misfortunes.

I am fascinated with how we communicate and tell stories, both to the people around us, and to ourselves. The private dialogue of inner thoughts and mantras that help us balance reality with public displays. The revelations we share with the people we know, and the people we don't. More than ever, we are on show, being watched, and offering ourselves up for observation.

The artwork is colourful and playful, deliberately humorous and, at times, ridiculous. Somewhere between ancient hieroglyphics and comic books or board games, the works present a kind of human portrait. Not obviously male or female, old or young, the figures resemble totems, statues, chess pieces or key holes. There is just enough information to suggest the human figure in which the characters represent everyone or nobody. A painting takes on its own personality, it becomes more than the sum of its parts. Like a Frankenstein's monster it wakes up, it speaks for itself, it answers back.

David Shillinglaw aims to construct a visual world that celebrates and incorporates the ingredients of what it means to be human; constructing heavily layered and detailed descriptions while also reducing and simplifying ideas into abstractions that seek to describe the complexities and simplicities of the human condition. The work is a celebration of difference, and coexistence a global and local story telling the way we communicate to one another and to ourselves.

We are all strong, we are all vulnerable, we are all hungry, we are all courageous, we are all hideous, and we are all fantastic.

Written by James Goodwin on behalf of the Turner Barnes Gallery

Murals

Abraxas Coffee Shop, Amsterdam with Olivier Vrancken 2013
Catacomb at 35 Tours, Paris 2012
Amsterdam Mural with Pipsqueak inside original Keith Haring frame 2014
Moniker Projects Wall Murals– Great Eastern Street, London 2013
Wide Open Walls – Gambia 2012-present
Murals including Utopia Café and Restaurant for AptART – Irbid, Jordan 2014
Easy Rider Rusty River Rasta – Vietnam 2014
The Berlin Ice Factory, Berlin 2014
Assisted The Agents of Change mural at Karpo hotel in London, with Remi Rough, LXOne, Augustine Kofie and Steve More 2012
Woodstock, Cape Town 2011
Athens 2014
Redchurch Street, London with Malarko, 2014
Denver, Colorado 2015
Austria 2015
Forum Przestrzenie – Krakow, Poland collaboration with Lily Mixe and Mörny Wörny 2016
Brooklyn 2016
Reeperbahn Festival, Germany, 2016
Rooftop Mural, Greece 2017
AptART Mural on Elpida, Refugee Shelter – Thelassoniki, Greece, 2017
Mural with Lily Mixe at Curio Cabal, East London, 2017
Lake Erie, Cleveland Mural, Ohio with Ohio City Inc and Street Art Ohio City, 2017
Mural Urban Spree Art Gallery Berlin 2017
Heart for A Heart Mural for The British Heart Foundation, 2017
St Mungo's Hostel Covent Garden, London, 2017
The Beaumont Studios for Vancouver Mural Festival, 2017
Mural Zurich, 2017
Zeltand House, Clifton Street, London, 2017
Geology inspired mural Mexico, 2018

Solo Exhibition Shows

2018

"What is Your Poison?" Affordable Art Fair Installation – Battersea Autumn 2018 – Turner Barnes Gallery
Space Is the Place – Andenken Gallery

2017

The Mechanics of Happiness – Palm Tree Gallery, London
Vancouver Mural Festival, Vancouver, 2017
Remote Control – Helium Cowboy, Hamburg
Tales of Ordinary Madness – That Art Gallery, Bristol

2016

Optical Delusion – Jealous Gallery

2015

You Are Here – Scream, London

2013

'My idea of fun' Solo show at Stolen Space, London
Dizzy Spells – Kingston Smith, London

2012

'Dance of 1000 faces' book launch and solo exhibition at Open Space gallery, Paris
Solo exhibition 'High Spirits' at Oppercloes gallery Rotterdam
Print release and solo exhibition with 'Something in the attic' in Notting Hill, London

2011

'Hobo Chic' Solo exhibition. Negre Gallery, Columbia Road, London

2010

'Self Medication' Solo exhibition. The Hospital Club, Covent Garden, London
'Trouble in the Backyard' Solo exhibition. Subwalk Gallery, Arnhem, Netherlands
Artist in residence, HeadSpace Gallery, Nara, Japan
'Dancing in your Sleep' Solo exhibition. Freud Gallery/Bar, Shaftesbury Avenue, London

2009

'Get Up An Antenna' Solo exhibition. Macondo Gallery, Islington/Hoxton Square, London

'Blue Berlin' Solo exhibition. Agnes B, Spitalfields, London
'Knee Jerk' Solo exhibition. Nancy Victor Gallery, London
'Chaos is my Favourite Colour' Solo exhibition. Freud, Shaftesbury Avenue, London
'Dumbfounded' Solo exhibition. The Here Gallery, Bristol

2008

'The Saved and The Damned' Solo exhibition. Standpoint Gallery/ Gallery 1.1, Hoxton Square, London
'Toil and Trouble' Solo exhibition. Macondo Gallery, Islington/Hoxton Square, London
'Monkey Puzzle' Solo exhibition. Sehubabe design, Liege, Belgium

Group Shows

AAF Battersea – Turner Barnes Gallery, 2018
Art on The Mind – 10 Hanover, London, 25 April 2018
Imago: A History of Portraits – Museum of Urban Contemporary Art, Munich 18 July – 4 Nov 2018
The Shrining – House of Vans, London, 2017
Dirty Paradise – Jealous Gallery, London 20-23 April 2017
Moniker Art Fair, London, 2017
Altered States – Saatchi Gallery, September 2017
She Lights Up the Night – Protein Gallery with Christie's Auction House, London 2016
Affordable Art fair Hampstead 2014
Urban masters – Opera gallery 2012
Street Art News group show in Paris 2012
Group exhibition, residency at The Singer Sweat Shop, Rotterdam 2012
Curated group exhibition at The Nancy Victor gallery, with artists such as Sickboy, Jaybo Monk, Matt Small and Remi Rough 2012
Group exhibition 'Nostalgia', with site specific mural at The Rook and Raven gallery, London 2012
'Everything Must Go' Exhibition with Indigo, 'A Word of Art' gallery, Cape Town 2011
'Paper, Scissors, Stone' Group exhibition. Singer Sweat Shop, Rotterdam, Netherlands 2010
'Numb Skull' Collaboration with Remi Rough. Nowhere North gallery, London 2010
'Stroke' Urban Art fair, with Honeycomb Projects. Zurich, Germany 2010
'Art For Haiti' Group charity exhibition. 'Au Secours' London 2010
'Locking Horns' Collaboration with Jim Sanders, Artist residency. Nowhere North gallery, London 2009
'Inky Goodness' Group exhibition. Birmingham 2009
'Decked' The art of skate board decks. Group exhibition, Stolen Space Gallery, London 2009
'Bon Voyage' Group exhibition. Friends And Enemies project. Berlin, Germany 2009
'Curious Fiend' Magazine launch and group exhibition. Nowhere North gallery, London 2009
'Visionaries' Group exhibition. WallSpace Gallery, London 2009
Nancy Victor Xmas Show, Group show. Nancy Victor gallery, London 2008
'Collision' Group exhibition. Peckham, London 2008
'Dreaming Of Babylon' Group exhibition. Agnes b, Covent Garden, London 2008
'Animals' Group exhibition. 96 Gillespie Gallery, London 2008
'When Things Come Together' Group exhibition. Nowhere North gallery, London 2008
'Happy Medium' Nancy Victor Gallery, London 2008
'Status Imprecise' Group exhibition of three artists. Siemens Senat, Istanbul, Turkey 2008

Books

Author
Dizzy Spells by David Shillinglaw, 2014
The Mechanics of Happiness by David Shillinglaw 2017
Dance of 1000 Faces by David Shillinglaw 2012
Colourful Condition by David Shillinglaw 2010
Edited Volume
The Jaunt – Combining the Two Best Things In Life by The Jaunt, 2015

Commissions

British Council, Illustration for Annual Report 2007-2008
Mural at Green Belt Festival, Gloucester. Commissioned by WallSpace Gallery, London 2009
'In Watermelon Sugar' Theatre set design and live drawing performance Chicken Shed Theatre Company, London 2009
Artwork for album cover 'Screaming Is Something' by The Travelling Band 2011
Artwork for The Travelling Band's 7" single, 'The Horizon, Me and You' 2010 also featured in Design Week Vol 25, Page 5

Painting trip to Kosovo, with MAC (Manchester Aid to Kosovo) 2012
 Love Potions – Moniker Projects 2013
 Mural commission for 'Baroque The Streets', alongside Roa and Connor Harrington, London 2013
 Private commission for Tottenham Hotspur football club, London 2013
 Mural commission for Converse, to paint entire building on Great Eastern Street, London 2013
 Mural commission to paint 60 rooms at the Hoax hotel, alongside Reka and Remi Rough 2013
 The Hubbox – Truro, Cornwall 2014
 End of The Road Festival 2014
 Mural commission for Whitecross street art festival, London 2013
 Latitude Festival 2015, 2016
 Every Day is Sun Day for Purpose New York 2015
 Canvas and Cream on Havelock Walk for Dulwich Outdoor Gallery, London 2015
 The Keep Smiling Kiosk at Scream Editions 2015
 XTC Dive Center Xcalak, Mexico 2016
 River Danube mural patron Davy DaVito 2016
 Flex Nightclub, Vienna 2016
 Rooftop Jealous Gallery, London 2016
 Hostel Detroit, Michigan 2016
 Jukebox Cleveland, Ohio 2016
 Climate Change is Real for Purpose, East Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York, 2016
 Creative Fusion Residency Cleveland Ohio 2016
 Mural commissioned by That Art Gallery, Bristol 2017
 Subvert The City with Brandalism Project 2017
 Commission for Low Bros with Malarko, East London, 2017
 Painted Truck for Viva Con Agua, Ethiopia, 2017
 Mural commissioned by Olivier Von Schulthess, Zurich, 2017
 Valencia Mural 2017
 Shutter Shop Front Mural for Scotts and Junk Deluxe, Margate, 2018
 Electric Beach Studios, Margate, 2018
 Facebook Artist in Residence Program, London 2018
 MUCA – Munich 2018, Museum of Urban & Contemporary Art

Fashion

Purple Pop Clothing 2014
 Sketchbook drawings used by designer Ameena Flamingo to make jumpsuit for Noel Fielding 2017
 'My bag' commission for Agnes B. Limited edition travel bag release, alongside artists such as BAST and JonOne 2012

Magazines

Dirty Paradise Zine 2017
 Digital Printer Magazine Cover 2017
 Very Nearly Almost Magazine 2015
 Artwork for The Travelling Band's 7" single, 'The Horizon, Me and You' featured in Design Week Vol 25, Page 5 2010

Interviews

2018 All Fruits Ripe Podcast Interview
 2017 Hunger TV
 2015 Huffington Post – Folk Inspired Street Artist Draws What's Inside Your Head
 2013 Independent – Latitude 2013: Five Minutes with... David Shillinglaw