

<https://www.davemartsolf.com>

## Statement

Dave Martsolf has been drawing and painting for over 40 years, since turning away from studies in architecture at MIT, circa 1967-70, to focus on the Fine Arts. Initially, he was intrigued by surrealism, and applied skills in photorealism to create complex surreal oil canvases with a dark flair. In the 1980's these abilities earned him the Juror's Prize at the "UNH Revisited" Alumni Show in 1981, and the Sawyer Award for Painting at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual New Hampshire Art Association Exhibition at the Currier Gallery of Art in Manchester, NH (1985). Later, this same time period of his artistic career was awarded the Grand Prize in the Art List's worldwide on-line Artist of the Month Contest in 2018.

After an interim period of over 30 years in corporate America as a quality manager, Martsolf was finally able to return to his artistic passion full-time. In 2017 Martsolf began painting abstracts some of which became what he now calls the Dance series. These dance paintings highlight the energy and artistic honesty contained in original sketches on paper that are then enlarged and copied onto canvas using a computer projector. The projected image is then redrawn lightly with pencil or pen. A colorized version is then created on a laser-printed copy of the black and white sketch using colored pencils. Using this colorized version as a guide, the oil paints are then applied to the canvas copy.

The free-form line sketches run the gamut from those that suggest objects understandable in our day-to-day 3-dimensional world to totally abstract work, i.e., the Dance series. Dance pushes the original line to become the artwork itself. The lines are emboldened with a variety of line widths of black oil paint with bold background colors to intrigue the eye in a dance filled with suggested motion. Solid and broken lines depicting figures and faces have evolved in 2021.

During the 2020 pandemic, Martsolf turned again back to the surreal, but this time with a more positive outlook, both in subject matter and in cerebral conception. He also began a portrait series of current important figures in politics and science with who Martsolf feels an affinity. His portraits of Kamala Harris and Joe Biden have already been sold. Others completed are Angela Merkel, the Dalai Lama, and Stacey Abrams. Others are planned. In the future Martsolf hopes to continue painting in all three of these developmental directions.

Martsolf's entire body of work can be examined at his website, <https://davemartsolf.com>

## Press

2021 – Finalist – Artwork of the Year 2020, Singulart.com, January 2021

2020 – Artsy Shark chosen as Featured Artist, November 2020

2020 – Featured in Artsy Shark's Late Winter Artists Showcase

2019 - Featured in an article in the Merrimack Valley Magazine's June 2019 issue

2018 - Martsolf received a Capsule Review in the May issue of Artscope magazine, and an interview in July with the Boston Voyager on-line newspaper. He also gave a 1-hour presentation for Methuen Community TV on his artwork that is still available in their website series "Artist in the Studio".

2018 - Martsolf was named Artist of the Month by the ArtList.com.

2012 - Reviewed by Artscope Magazine's Jan 5, 2012 E-mail Blast! publication

"When realism and surrealism collide, you get Dave Martsolf. He has the skills and trained hand to make his paintings graphic and true to life, which he pairs with his theoretical, conceptual imagination. It is not very often that we come across an artist so grounded yet so fanciful, all in the same instance.

Martsolf's work is fresh and original. He takes the everyday and ventures with it into the unknown, a journey that results in his astonishing art. Even some of his most far-fetched pieces possess an aura of sanity and organization, dispelling any notion of the irrational or unconscious typically associated with surrealism."

2012 - Reviewed by Artscope Magazine Jan-Feb 2012 Edition in Capsule Previews

"Galatea Fine Art starts 2012 with three exhibitions intended to get you thinking. "David Martsolf: Unbridled Imagination" is a visual, watercolor-painted pendulum ride swinging between Realism and Surrealism. After making a name for himself as an artist to watch in the 1980s, Martsolf's been a digital imagery pioneer for the personal computer generation — his work includes making screensavers for the Damsel Software Group. He's escaped the vortex to return to the artistic style that had him labeled "an excellent draftsman, a master of arbitrary space and a colorist of more than ordinary competence."

## Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology 1967 – 1970 Architecture

University of New Hampshire 1970 - 1973 Fine Arts, Art History

University of New Hampshire 1983 - 1985 Bachelor of Arts in the Arts

## Gallery and Festival Representation

Singulart, Art Sleuth, Fine Art America, Red Bubble and other online channels, ongoing  
Attleboro Art Museum, Attleboro, MA 2021-2022  
Hopkinton Center for the Arts, Hopkinton, MA 2020-2021  
Arts Wayland, Wayland, MA 2019 – 2021  
Arts League of Lowell, Lowell, MA, 2018-2021  
Gallery Z, Lowell, MA 2018-2021  
Arts Worcester, Worcester, MA 2018-2021  
Paradise City Arts Festival, Marlborough, MA, June 2020  
Sugarloaf Arts and Crats Festival, Oaks, PA, November 2019  
Morristown CraftMarket, Morristown, NJ, October 2019  
Berkshire Crafts Fair, Great Barrington, MA, August 2019  
Paradise City Arts Festival, Marlborough, MA, March 2019  
The Brush Art Gallery & Studios, Lowell, MA, 2018

## Solo Shows

“Through the Eyes of a Child”, Greenwald Gallery, Arts League of Lowell (MA), June 2021  
“David Martsof”, Café Gallery, Gallery Z, Lowell, MA, 2019  
“David Martsof”, Parish Center for the Arts, Westford, MA, 2019  
“David Martsof – The Rational Surrealist”, Gallery Z, Lowell, MA, 2018  
“Unbridled Imagination” - Galatea Fine Art, Boston, MA, 2012

## Awards

Chosen for a Collection – “Love at First Sight”, Singulart.com, February 2021  
Artwork of the Year 2020 – One of 15 Finalists – Singulart.com, January 2021  
Chosen for a Collection – “Art and Digitalization”, Singulart.com, December 2020  
Artsy Shark - chosen as Featured Artist, November 2020  
Merit Award, “2020 Artist’s Choice Competition”, Grey Cube Gallery (online) November 2020  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place, “Weather Art Competition”, Art Room Gallery (online), October 2020  
Chosen for a Collection – “Dreams”, Singulart.com, September 2020  
Chosen for a Collection – “The White Collection”, Singulart.com, August 2020  
Certificate of Excellence, Artavita.com’s San Diego Contest, October 2019  
1st Prize, “From All Sides”, Arts League of Lowell, MA, 2018  
Certificate of Excellence, Artavita.com’s 26th On-line Art Contest, 2018  
People’s Choice Award, “Honoring Gaia”, Arts League of Lowell, Lowell, MA, 2018  
Grand Prize, The Art List’s on-line Artist of the Month Contest, 2018  
Certificate of Excellence, Artavita.com’s 24th On-line Art Contest, 2017  
Sawyer Memorial Award for Painting, 38th Annual New Hampshire Art Association Exhibition, Currier Gallery of Art, Manchester, NH, 1985  
Best of Show, New Hampshire Arthritis Foundation Annual Art Exhibit, Concord, NH, 1981, 1982  
Juror's Prize, "UNH Revisited" Alumni Show, Durham, NH, 1981  
Honorable Mention, Washington & Jefferson College, Washington, PA, 1978

## National Juried Shows

“Real or Imagined”, Attleboro Art Museum, Attleboro, MA, June 2021  
“Renewal”, Arts Wayland @ The W Gallery, Wayland, MA, June 2021  
“Artist’s Choice Competition”, Grey Cube Gallery (online) November 2020  
Weather Art Competition, Art Room Gallery (online), October 2020  
5th Annual Colorful Abstractions On-line Juried Art Exhibition, Fusion Art, November 2019  
San Diego Contest, Artavita.com, October 2019  
Electron Salon, Los Angeles Center for Digital Art, Los Angeles, CA, Jan 2018  
Artist of the Month Contest, The Art List (online), 2018 (Grand Prize Winner)  
24th On-line Art Contest, Artavita.com, 2017  
3rd Annual Colorful Abstractions On-line Juried Art Exhibition, Fusion Art, Nov 2017  
3rd Annual Figures & Faces On-line Juried Art Exhibition, Fusion Art, Oct 2017  
Gallery 25N.com & Art-Competition.net “Dreams 3” on-line Art Exhibition, Aug 2017  
Caladan Gallery “Reality” on-line show, Dec-Jan 2011- 2012  
Water: A National Juried Photography Exhibition - Photoplace Gallery, Middlebury, VT July-  
August 2009  
Springfield Art League, Springfield, MA, 1983, 1984  
Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH, 1982  
North Platte Valley Artist's Guild, Scottsbluff, NE, 1979  
Washington & Jefferson College, Washington, PA, 1978, 1980  
Greater Fall River Art Association, Fall River, MA, 1978  
Ellsworth Gallery, Simsbury, CT, 1977, 1978

## Regional Group Shows

“2021 Members Exhibition”, Attleboro Art Museum, Attleboro, MA, Dec 2021-Jan 2022  
“December Members Exhibition”, @ the W Gallery, Wayland, MA, December 2021  
“Small Works”, Cambridge Art Assoc., Cambridge, MA, December 2021  
“Winter Members Show”, Chelmsford Art Society, Chelmsford, MA, November-December 2021  
“100 and Below”, ALL Gallery, Lowell, MA, November-December 2021  
“November Members Exhibition”, @ the W Gallery, Wayland, MA, November 2021  
“November at the Speedway”, Cambridge Art Assoc., Brighton, MA, November 2021  
“Greenwald Inspirations”, ALL Gallery, Lowell, MA, September-October 2021  
“Summer”, Gallery Z, Lowell, MA, August 2021  
“Members July Salon”, @ the W Gallery, Wayland, MA, July 2021  
“Members May Salon”, @ the W Gallery, Wayland, MA, May 2021  
“Members March Salon”, @ the W Gallery, Wayland, MA, March 2021  
“Abstract Non-Objective Art”, Gallery Z, Lowell, MA, March 2021  
“My Favorite Place”, ALL Gallery, Lowell, MA, March-April 2021  
“The Big Tent”, Hopkinton Center for the Arts, Hopkinton, MA, February-March 2021  
“Members February Salon, @ the W Gallery, Wayland, MA, February 2021  
“Color It Green”, ALL Gallery, Lowell, MA, January-February 2021  
“Members January Salon, @ the W Gallery, Wayland, MA, January 2021  
“For the Love of Earth”, @ the W Gallery, Wayland, MA, November-December, 2020  
“Eighth Annual One”, ArtsWorcester, Worcester, MA, September 2020

"Resilience", Gallery Z, Lowell, MA, September 2020  
"Gravity/Levity", ArtsWorcester, Worcester, MA, July-August 2020  
"Ice & Snow", Gallery Z, Lowell, MA, February 2020, and "Bodyscapes", March 2020  
"Water", ALL Gallery, Lowell, MA, January 2020, and "Faces". March 2020  
"Members January Salon", W Gallery, Wayland, MA, January 2020, also February & March 2020  
Holiday Small Works Shows in Lowell, Worcester and Wayland, MA, December 2019

## Regional Group Shows (cont.)

"Art of the Macabre", Gallery Z, Lowell, MA, October-November 2019  
"Illustration in Black and White", Gallery Z, Lowell, MA, September 2019  
"Through the Surface", 6 Bridges Gallery, Maynard, MA, July-Aug 2019  
"Out of the Ordinary", Arts League of Lowell, Lowell, MA, June-July 2019  
"About Face", ArtsWorcester, Worcester, MA, June-July 2019  
"Abstractions", Gallery Z, Lowell, MA, June 2019  
"Assemblages", Gallery Z, Lowell, MA, April 2019  
"All Things Red", Gallery Z, Lowell, MA, February 2019  
"Fantasy Worlds & Mystical Beasts", Gallery Z, Lowell, MA, January 2019  
"2018 Annual Member's Exhibition", The Brush Gallery, Lowell, MA, Lowell, Dec 2018  
"100 and Below", Arts League of Lowell, MA, December 2018  
"The Twelve Days of Christmas", Gallery Z, Lowell, MA, December 2018  
"A Matter of Perspective", Arts Worcester, Worcester, MA, October 2018  
"Variations in Size", Arts League of Lowell, MA, August 2018  
"Artist Co-op Exhibition", Gallery Z, Lowell, MA, July 2018  
"New England Group Show", Arts League of Lowell, MA, July 2018  
"From All Sides", Arts League of Lowell, MA, May-June 2018  
"Take Back the Night", Arts League of Lowell, Lowell, MA, April 2018  
"Looking for America", Gallery Z, Lowell, MA, March 2018  
"Four for Education", The Brush Gallery, Lowell, MA, March 2018  
"Honoring Gaia", Arts League of Lowell, Lowell, MA, March 2018  
"NE Collective III", Galatea Fine Art, Boston, MA, August 2012  
The LAP Gallery "Zines Show", Waltham, MA, May 2012  
Holiday Group Show, Lynn Arts Center, Lynn, MA, December 2011  
Small Works Group Show, Galatea Fine Art, Boston, MA, December 2011  
Artmarket Gallery & Exhibitions – Juried Show – Boston, MA, June 2009  
Experimental Art Gallery – Juried Show – Salem, MA, June 2009  
Trees Atlanta - Trees in Art Exhibit - Atlanta, GA, May 2009  
Group Show - Gale Library Annual Art Exhibition - Newton, NH, April 2009  
Projekt30.com on-line juried exhibition, March 2009  
4' x 6' oil painting "Surface Tension" installed in retail space window fronting Washington Street, Boston, a major retail thoroughfare of the city. July 2009  
5'x 4' oil painting "Ferris Wheel" installed in entryway foyer of ArtMarket Gallery, Boston, MA. July 2009  
Projekt30.com on-line juried exhibition, December 2008