

David Long

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David Long brings together strong design, abstract imagery, a diverse range of lettering styles and a vibrant palette to create striking murals that engage the passer-by. Trained in aerosol painting, David maintains a studio practice in painting and printmaking and he also incorporates collage, photography, and 3D elements into his work. He is interested in bridging these artistic traditions to compose unique pieces that engage and respond to each site specifically. Inspired by an array of sources from cartooning to vintage commercial design to social justice, David's work has been described as expressive, intriguing and energetic. Having worked as a visual arts instructor with the Fab-5 since September 2011, David is invested in the concept of art as a transformative tool for individual empowerment and community outreach and he sees public art especially as an opportunity to provoke thought and to spark critical discussion.

Murals completed in Tacoma Murals Project



No One Else But You Can Feel Along the Grooves, 2013
East 43rd Street Bridge Mural, 310 E. 43rd Street
Aerosol and latex on concrete, 30" x 176"
Artist: David Long



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No One Else But You Can Feel Along the Grooves is the second mural to cover the East 43rd Street Bridge. The site is the intersection of two active pathways: E. 43rd Street, which connects the Eastside of Tacoma to Pacific Avenue, and spans above a strip of railroad tracks, which is traveled more often by pedestrians than by freight trains. The surrounding neighborhood is a diverse community of many languages, experiences and perspectives; this intersection is a point of exposure between differing walks of life.

Over the last two decades, there has been a battle over the bridge's surfaces. Infrequently but consistently, vandals and graffiti-erasing citizens have gone back and forth, layering the walls with signatures covered by grey and tan blocks. Many of the neighbors living adjacent to the bridge take pride in their community. When the first mural was painted in 2011, it was well received by the numerous neighbors who voiced their approval. The work remained intact for over a year before it was marked by a spattering of graffiti, which was unable to be painted over without further damaging the mural piece. The City of Tacoma's Arts Program decided to have the bridge repainted with a new mural as part of the 2013 Tacoma Murals Project.

In re-approaching the site as a solo project, David Long connected with assorted community members to gather their input and to find inspiration for a new design. He found that while some people missed the original mural, others had felt no attachment to it. For the new mural to not only detract vandals but to be a stake of community pride and ownership, it needed to carry an authentic message. David collaborated with Davon White, an Eastside resident, Lincoln High School student, emcee and poet, to provide textual content for the project. Davon's words "No one else but you can ... feel along the grooves" span both sides of the bridge in bold letters, enveloping the viewer in their atmospheric flow. The letters are bursting with cosmic clouds, sunsets and aquatic landscapes abstracted by textural transitions and offset by a dark grey and black background. The words stand as a vague snippet, encouraging the viewer to feel his or her uniqueness, to interpret the line in one's own way. Even the many viewers who zip by in their cars absorb the mural's energy as they pass briefly into a corridor of warm and cool colors.



Sir-Amicks, 2012

5441 South Sheridan

Lead artists: Kenji Stoll, Chris Jordan. Artist team: David Long, Yvette Simone, Chelsea O'Sullivan, Natalie Oswald

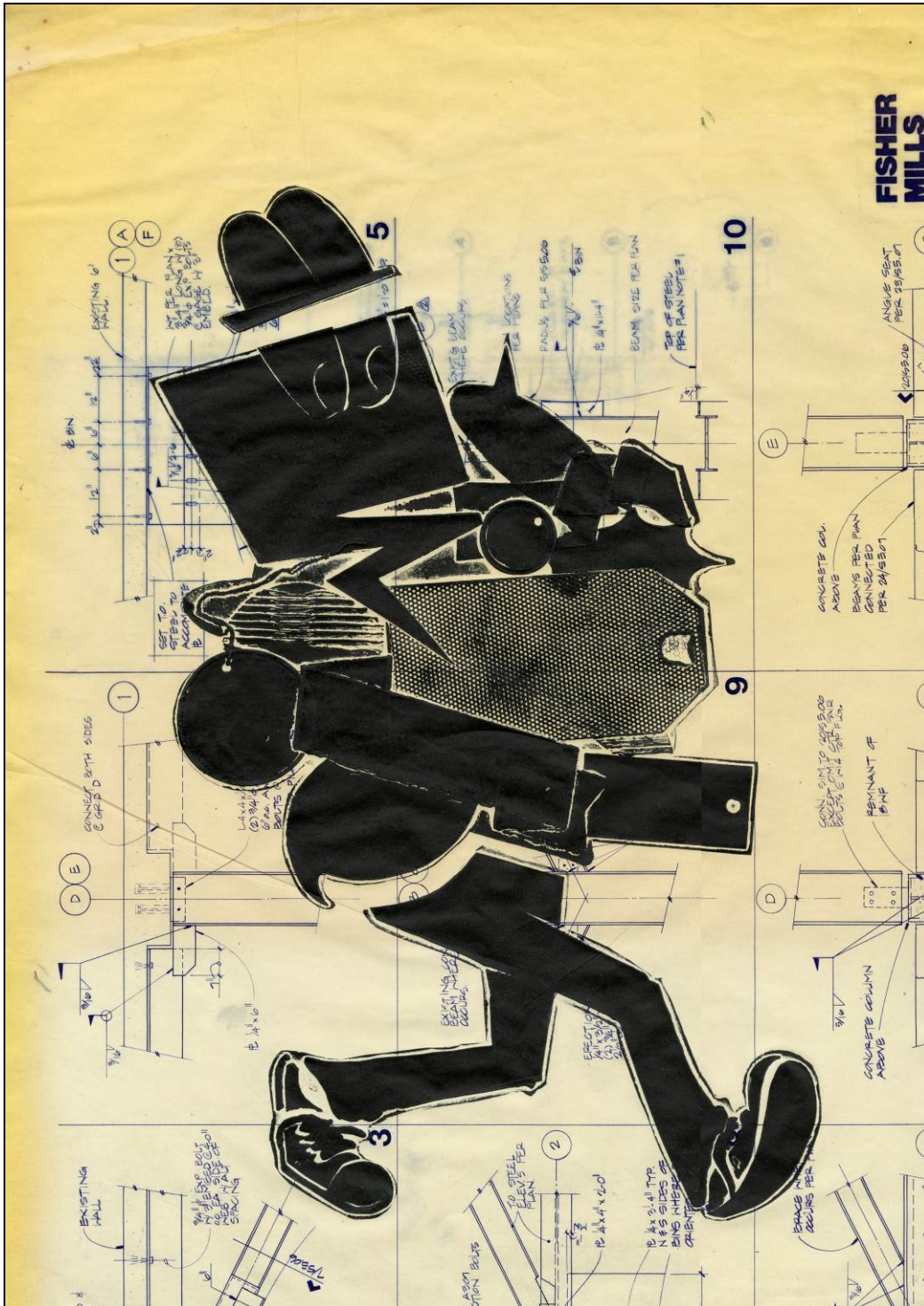


Bergerson Terrace mural, 2011

Acrylic on concrete

Lead artists: Rachael Dotson, Joni Joachims, Jeremy Gregory. Participating artists: Liza A Brown, Kate Cendejas, Brian Hutcheson, David Long, Mary McFarland, Laura Ospital, Chelsea O'Sullivan, Natalie Oswald, Yvette Simone, Shannon Wallace, Janice Lee Warren

A Sampling of Additional Artwork Created by David Long



Labelman, 2013
 Collagraph print on found blueprint, 22" x 15"



Grace, 2014
Monotype screen print, watercolor, and acrylic on paper, 7" x 22"



Portrait of a Subway Musician, 2011
Screenprint using contact paper, 26" x 20"



The Dynamics of the Race and Pedagogy Conference, 2010
Aerosol and latex on wood, 10' x 8'
Collaboration between Kenji Stoll, Chris Jordan, and David Long