

David HILLIARD  
*«The Tale is True»*





*Wiser than despair*, C-Print, 3 x 61 x 51 cm ou 3 x 102 x 76 cm, 2012

## *The Tale is True*

Depuis 20 ans David Hilliard met en image un roman personnel dans lequel sont évoqués sa famille, ses amis et proches, ses fantasmes ou ses peurs. Son père, et les liens qui l'unissent à lui – il fut le premier à l'initier à la pratique de la photographie - sont un de ses sujets récurrents.

Ses compositions en panneaux formant des diptyques, triptyques ou même des quadriptyques, ont permis à David Hilliard de développer un travail très personnel qui a une place à part dans le milieu de la photographie contemporaine.

Dans *The Tale is True* l'analyse des relations filiales se porte sur les rapports extrêmes d'un père et de son fils qui vivent reclus dans leur maison de Cape Cod, dans le Maine. Le père, un savant américain renommé, souffre du syndrome de Diogène : il ramasse, accumule et entasse tout ce qu'il peut trouver autour de lui. Son fils Eric, qui partage avec lui la maison, est victime de différentes psychoses obsessionnelles. Ne travaillant plus, vivant coupés du reste du monde, reclus, leurs névroses vont petit à petit les mener à la ruine et à la vente de leur dernier bien : leur maison.

Deux histoires, une plongée dans l'intimité de deux hommes torturés par leurs névroses, l'euphorie kitch et surjouée de deux retraités aisés de la middle class ; deux vies parallèles traitées comme des métaphores, souvent mélancoliques, parfois drôles, de questionnements philosophiques plus larges, où le destin, la foi, le rapport à l'autre, la patience dans l'adversité seraient les véritables protagonistes.

David Hilliard est né en 1964, il vit et travaille à Boston. Ses œuvres sont présentes dans les collections du Museum of Contemporary Art de Los Angeles, au Museum of Fine Arts de Boston, à l'Art Institute de Chicago, au New Mexico Museum of Art de Sante Fe, au Whitney Museum de New York, au Philadelphia Museum of Art...

*The tale is true, and mine. It tells How the sea took me, swept me back  
And forth in sorrow and fear and pain,  
Showed me suffering in a hundred ships,  
In a thousand ports, and in me...*  
The Seafarer (Old English Poem)

In this new body of work, «The Tale is True», realized in 2012-2013, Hilliard continues to deconstruct issues surrounding familial relationships, and the struggle to secure a sense of self and place in a chaotic world. For over 20 years Hilliard has intermittently made photographs of his father, often including himself, exploring their relationship and the process of aging. In *The Tale is True*, Hilliard returns to the father-son narrative, using his multi-panel panoramas (polyptychs) to explore a family's perseverance as they struggle to avoid an entropic slide toward ruin. Their Cape Cod family home, a legacy of generations of Yankee prosperity and tradition, serves as a symbol of identity, entrapment and history. Within these photographs, Hilliard unfolds the story of a father and son trying to maintain their physical and emotional footing while being swept up in the confluence of a complicated past and uncertain future. The tension between disillusionment and hope pervades this narrative, and is further punctuated by allegorical and symbolist cues within Hilliard's multi-panel arrangements.

Much like the polyptychs of Renaissance ecclesiastical painting, each of Hilliard's photographs offers the viewer the opportunity to explore from panel to panel the universal story of man's frailty, and travails of the human spirit. Just as earlier paintings displayed stories or religious histories coupled with the mystical and mythological, Hilliard utilizes narrative and metaphor to reveal philosophical and spiritual themes of fate and faith, and the necessity of patience in adversity.

The form, concept and titling of the series is explicitly drawn from *The Seafarer*, an Old English elegy which tells the story of an old seafarer facing the hardships of his past in an attempt to create meaning out of his life. Hilliard's poetic reference finds visual presence within the details of his images: figurines of sea captains, paintings of tall ships under sail, slivers of shimmering ocean glimpsed beyond the ruin of the house. The poem, though mournful, ends with an uncertain, but lasting beauty. Hilliard explains, "it's my intention that (the photographs) serve as a testament to perseverance; within even the bleakest of histories there exist threads of enduring hope, reminding us that even in the face of great adversity, we adapt and endure."

David Hilliard received his BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston and an MFA from Yale University School of Art. A Guggenheim fellow and a Fulbright recipient, he has received numerous awards and honors. His work is included in the permanent collections of at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. He recently completed tenure as Artist in Residence at Dartmouth College and is currently Director of Post-Baccalaureate Program in Photography at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design.





En haut: *Vigilant*, C-Print, 3 x 61 x 51 cm ou 3 x 102 x 76 cm , 2012  
En bas: *Send to George D. Bryant*, C-Print, 4 x 61 x 51 cm, 2012

# David HILLIARD

## FORMATION

1994

MFA Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT

1992

BFA Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA

## SÉLECTION D'EXPOSITIONS INDIVIDUELLES - DEPUIS 2000

2014 - "David Hilliard - Intimacies," Florida Museum of Photographic Arts, Tampa, FL  
"The Tale is True", La Galerie Particulière, Bruxelles, Belgique

2013 - "The Tale is True", La Galerie Particulière, Paris, France  
"The Tale is True", Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY

2012 - Art Museum at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY  
Watkins College of Art, Design & Film, Nashville, TN

2011 - La Galerie Particuliere, Paris, France  
"Great Expectations: David Hilliard & David Rathman", Mark Moore Gallery Culver City, CA

2010 - "Tending to Doubt," Jackson Fine Art, Atlanta, GA  
"Highway of Thought," Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

2009 - "Highway of Thought," University of Maine Museum of Art, Bangor, ME  
"Being Like," Mark Moore Gallery, Santa Monica, CA  
"Being Like," Carroll and Sons, Boston, MA

2008 - "Being Like," Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY  
Anchorage Museum of History and Art, Anchorage, AK  
Carroll and Sons, Boston, MA  
Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY  
Mark Moore Gallery, Santa Monica, CA

2007 - "New/Now," New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT  
"Verifier," Quality Pictures, Portland, OR  
"Verifier," Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA  
"Saturate," Jackson Fine Art, Atlanta, GA

2006 - "The Favorite," Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA

2005 - "Ladies," Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA  
"Desired Effect," Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY  
University of Georgia, Athens, GA  
"Embellish," Mark Moore Gallery, Santa Monica, CA  
"Embellish," Jackson Fine Art, Atlanta, GA  
"David Hilliard - New Works," Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA

2004 - LA Galerie, Frankfurt, Germany  
"There's Only Biography," Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY

2003 - "There's Only Biography," Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA  
"David Hilliard," Byron Cohen Gallery, Kansas City, MO  
"So Close - So Far Away," LA Galerie, Frankfurt, Germany  
"Catch and Release," Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY

2002 - "Catch and Release," Jackson Fine Art, Atlanta, GA  
"Catch and Release," Mark Moore Gallery, Santa Monica, CA  
"David Hilliard," Blue Sky Gallery, Oregon Center for the Photographic Arts, Portland, OR

2001 - "Making Boys Cry," Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA

2000 - "Photographs," Mark Moore Gallery, Santa Monica, CA  
"Photographs of Endurance," Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA

## SÉLECTION D'EXPOSITIONS COLLECTIVES - DEPUIS 2000

2014 - "Glimpse," Gallery at Cassilhaus, Chapel Hill, NC

2013 - "Stocked: Contemporary Art from the Grocery Aisles", Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita, KS  
A selection of images from "The Tale is True", Schoolhouse Gallery, Provincetown, MA  
"Woods, Lovely, Dark and Deep", DC Moore Gallery, New York, NY

2012 - "The Kids Are All Right", Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI  
"Shared Vision: The Sondra Gilman and Celso Gonzalez-Falla Collection of Photography"  
Aperture Foundation, New York, NY  
"Do or Die. The Human Condition in Painting and Photography"  
Stiftung Deutsches Hygiene Museum, Dresden, Germany

2011 - "Beautiful Vagabonds, Birds in Contemporary Photography, Video and Sound"  
Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY  
"Hero Worship", Mindy Sololmon Gallery, St. Petersburg, FL  
"Conversations: Photography from the Bank of America Collection", Museum of Fine Arts  
Boston, Boston, MA  
"Becoming Muses" Woodstock Center for Photography, Woodstock, NY  
"Masculinity and Rites of Passage: Photography by David Hilliard"  
The Groton School, Groton, MA  
"People Power Places: Reframing the American Landscape", Davidson College, Davidson, NC  
"Remember Then: An Exhibition on the Photography of Memory"  
Concourse Gallery - Center for Government and International Studies, Harvard University,  
Cambridge, MA  
"Open: A 25th Anniversary Show", Mark Moore Gallery, Culver City, CA

2010 - "Incognito, The Hidden Self - Portrait", Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY  
"Do or Die. The Human Condition in Painting and Photography," The Wallraf-Richartz Museum  
& Foundation Corboud, Cologne, Germany

2009 - "Out of the Box: Photography Portfolios from the Permanent Collection," DeCordova



Museum, Lincoln, MA

"Athens of America," St. Botolph Club, Boston, MA

"Glitz and Grime," Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY

2008 - "The Gaze," Singer Editions, Boston, MA

"The Good Life," Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY

"For Art's Sake," Open House Gallery, New York, NY, A collaborative exhibition and silent auction with Ford Modeling Agency to raise awareness and funding for ACRIA (AIDS Community Research Initiative of America)

"Presumed Innocence: Photographs of Children," A group exhibition with catalog. DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA

2007 - "The Morton Collection: A Selection," Visual Arts Gallery, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL

"Building a Collection: Recent Acquisitions of Contemporary Art," Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Boston, MA

"David Hilliard and Sam Taylor Wood," Jackson Fine Art, Atlanta GA

"Window/Interface," A group exhibition with catalogue, The Kemper Art Museum at Washington University, St. Louis, MO

"An Instinctive Eye: A Selection of Contemporary Photographs from The Sir Elton John Collection," Pinchuk Art Centre Kiev, Ukraine

2006 - "Modern Photographs: The Machine, the Body and the City Gifts from the Charles Cowles Collection," Miami Art Museum, Miami, FL

"Approaches to Narrative," DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, MA

"Arcadia," Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY

"I Love the Burbs," Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, NY

2005 - "Face & Figure," Portrait & Figure Study in Contemporary Photography, Westport Arts Center, Westport, CT

"Post Production," Changing Role Gallery, Naples Italy

"Monstrously Tranquil," Chris Ingalls Gallery, Miami FL

"Picturing Central Park," Central Park Conservancy exhibition at Christie's, New York, NY

"Taking Inventory," Mark Moore Gallery, Santa Monica, CA

"When We Were Young," Foley Gallery, New York, NY

"Epilogue," Jackson Fine Art, Atlanta, GA

"On View, Photographing The Museum," Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY

"Photographers View: Found and Invented Constructs," Elizabeth Leach Gallery Portland, OR

2004 - "The Nude, Ideal and Reality," Galleria d'Arte Moderna Bologna, Bologna, Italy

"Real Time," DiverseWorks Art Space, Houston, TX

"Pure," David Hilliard and Ryan McGinley, The University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA

"Art History: Photography References Painting," Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY

2003 - "Sea," Jen Bekman Gallery, New York, NY

"Review/Preview," Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA

"Enchanted Evening," Yancey Richardson Gallery, New York, NY

"Swimsuits and Sports," Jackson Fine Art, Atlanta, GA

"Re-Presenting Representation," Arnot Art Museum, Elmira NY

"Self and Soul," Asheville Art Museum, Asheville, NC

2002 - "Review/Preview," Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA

"Two of US," LA Galerie, Frankfurt, Germany

Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, NY



2001 - "Fresh," Jackson Fine Art, Atlanta, GA

Exhibition, Blind Spot Magazine #17, Society for Contemporary Photography Kansas City, MO  
Digital Printmaking at Singer Editions, Davison Art Center, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT  
Exhibition, Blind Spot Magazine #17, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA

2000 - "Something About the Girl," Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston, MA

"Fiction/Non Fiction," Howard Yezerski Gallery, Boston, MA

"Face Off," Fuller Museum of Art, Brockton, MA

"7x7x7," Gallery Rekalde, Bilbao, Spain

"Six to See," Parts Gallery, Minneapolis, MN

## COLLECTIONS

Art Museum at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, MA

Art Institute of Chicago Art Museum, Chicago IL

Fogg Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

LaSalle Bank Photography Collection, Chicago, IL

List Visual Art Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

Miami Art Museum, Miami, FL

Microsoft Art Collection, Redmond, WA

Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA

Museum of Contemporary Art, Jacksonville, FL

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

Neuberger and Berman, New York, NY

New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT

New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, NM

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA

Portland Museum of Art, Portland, OR

Sir Elton John, Atlanta, GA - London, England

The Boston Public Library, Boston, MA

The Cleveland Clinic, Lyndurst, OH

The Columbia Museum of Art, SC

The Community of Madrid, Madrid, Spain

The DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, MA

The Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, CA

The University of Maine, Bangor, ME

The University of Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT



*Into Another Skin, C-Print, 3 x 61 x 51 cm ou 3 x 102 x 76 cm, 2012*



*Ebb, C-Print, 3 x 61 x 51 cm ou 3 x 102 x 76 cm, 2012*



*Some Days Have Gone*, C-Print, 3 x 61 x 51 cm ou 3 x 102 x 76 cm, 2012





*Knife Boiler, C-Print, 3 x 61 x 51 cm ou 3 x 102 x 76 cm, 2012*



En haut: *What was Kept*, C-Print, 3 x 61 x 51 cm ou 3 x 102 x 76 cm, 2012  
En bas: *White Wash*, C-Print, 3 x 61 x 51 cm ou 3 x 102 x 76 cm, 2012





*Tale is True*, C-Print, 2 x 61 x 51 cm ou 2 x 102 x 76 cm, 2012

## INFORMATIONS PRATIQUES

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